

3

Tsunami
Umino

THE FULL-TIME
Wife ESCAPIST

THE FULL-TIME
Wife ESCAPIST



VOLUME
3

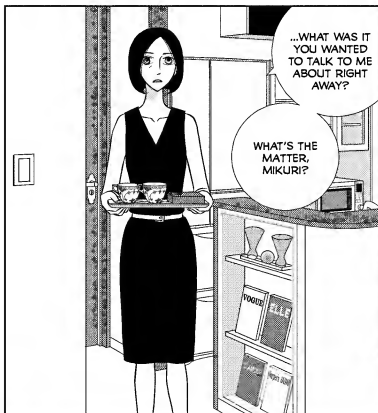


Tsunami Umino



Nothing Ventured, Nothing Gained





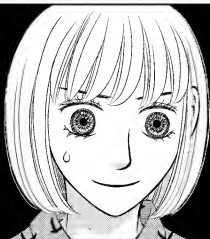
...WHAT WAS IT
YOU WANTED
TO TALK TO ME
ABOUT RIGHT
AWAY?

WHAT'S THE
MATTER,
MIKURI?



SO...

WELL, NOW THERE ARE
TWO THINGS I WANT TO
TALK TO YOU ABOUT.



BUT I DON'T HAVE
ANY MONEY!

I DON'T WANT A
SILVER TOOTH!



ONE OF THEM
HAS TO DO WITH
MY TRIP TO THE
DENTIST.

...ABOUT HOW HE
AND I WOULD LIKE
TO SHARE YOU,
MIKURI-SAN?



THE OTHER IS...

HAS
TSUZAKI-SAN
TOLD YOU...

ACK.

WHAT'S THIS
ABOUT SHARING
ME?!

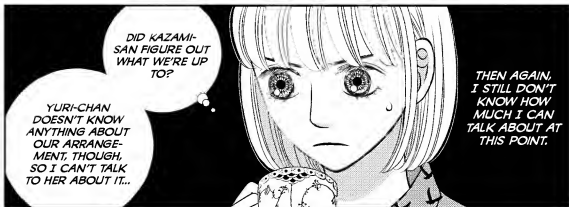
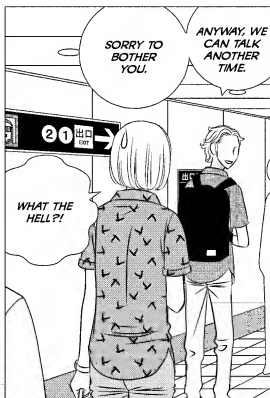
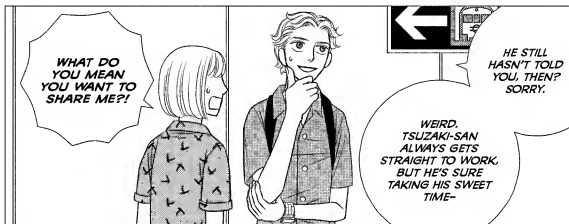
WHAT DO
YOU MEAN BY
THAT?

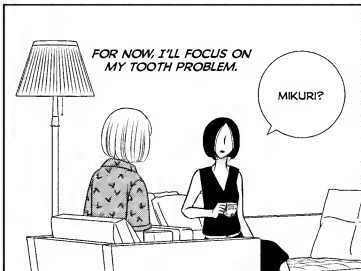


...

WHAT?







FOR NOW, I'LL FOCUS ON
MY TOOTH PROBLEM.

MIKURI?



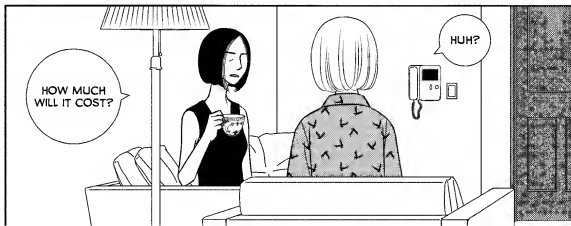
WELL, I WENT TO
SEE THE DENTIST
TODAY...

SO YOU TOOK
MY ADVICE.
WHAT DID HE
SAY?



IT TURNS OUT MY
CAVITY REACHED
THE NERVE, AND
I'M GOING TO
HAVE TO GET A
FILLING.

HOW
MUCH?



HOW MUCH
WILL IT COST?

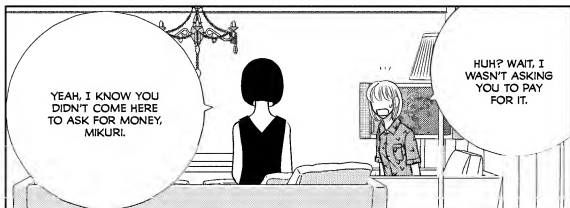
HUH?



THE OTHER OPTIONS
WOULDN'T BE COV-
ERED. I COULD GET
REINFORCED PLASTIC
FOR 42,000 YEN**
OR CERAMIC FOR
95,000.***

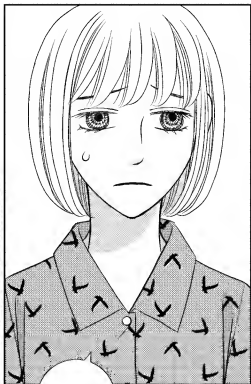
WELL, GETTING
A SILVER TOOTH
WOULD ONLY COST
ME TWO OR THREE
THOUSAND YEN,*
SINCE INSURANCE
WOULD COVER IT.

* ABOUT TWENTY OR THIRTY DOLLARS. ** ABOUT \$420. *** ABOUT \$950.

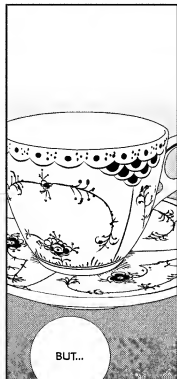




* ABOUT \$100.



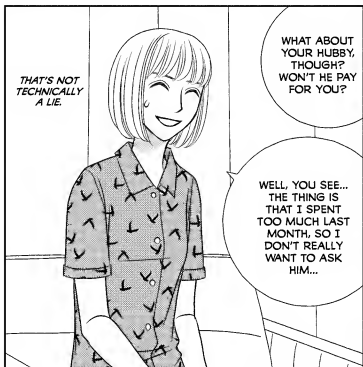
Y-YEAH...



BUT...



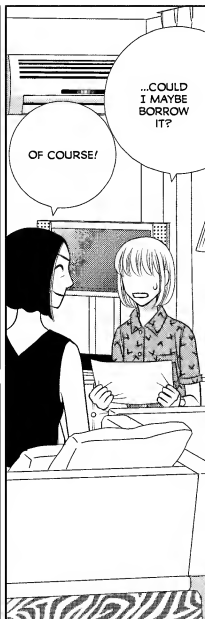
** ABOUT \$100. *** ABOUT \$200.



THAT'S NOT
TECHNICALLY
A LIE.

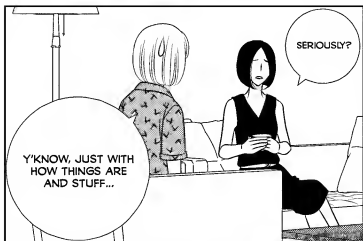
WHAT ABOUT
YOUR HUBBY,
THOUGH?
WON'T HE PAY
FOR YOU?

WELL, YOU SEE...
THE THING IS
THAT I SPENT
TOO MUCH LAST
MONTH, SO I
DON'T REALLY
WANT TO ASK
HIM...



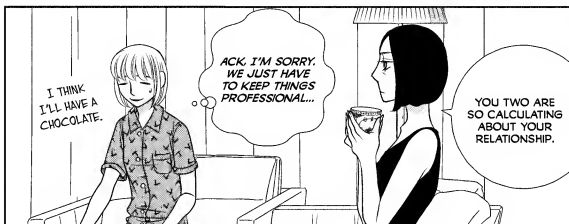
OF COURSE!

...COULD
I MAYBE
BORROW
IT?



SERIOUSLY?

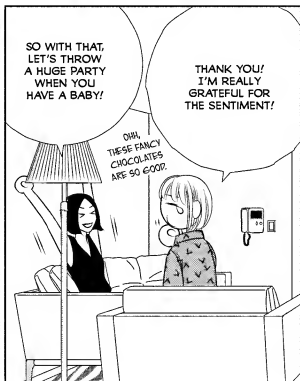
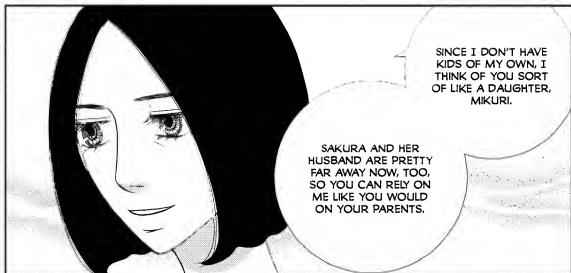
Y'KNOW, JUST WITH
HOW THINGS ARE
AND STUFF...

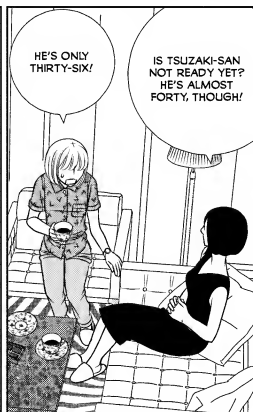
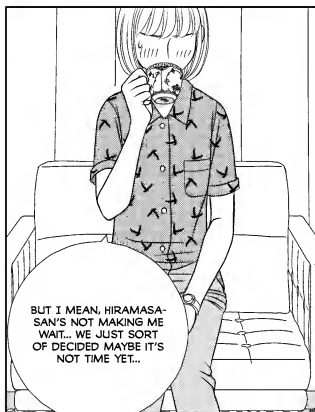
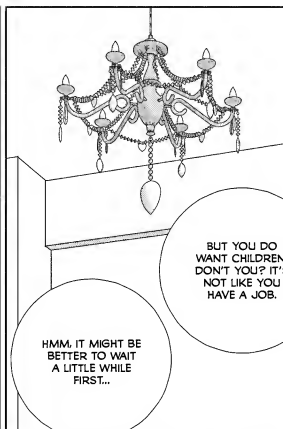


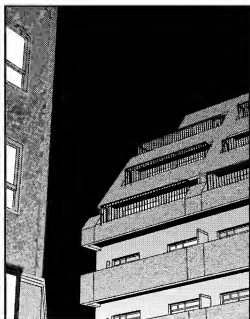
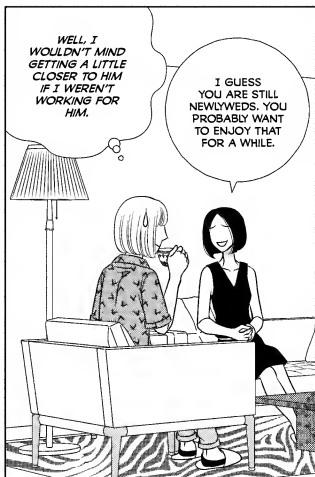
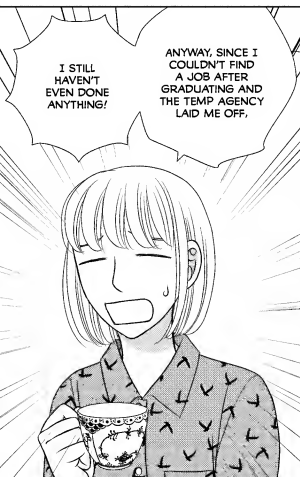
I THINK
I'LL HAVE A
CHOCOLATE.

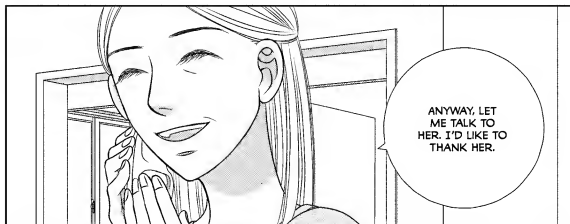
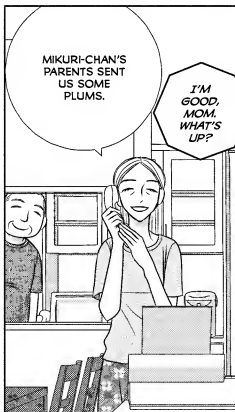
ACK, I'M SORRY.
WE JUST HAVE
TO KEEP THINGS
PROFESSIONAL...

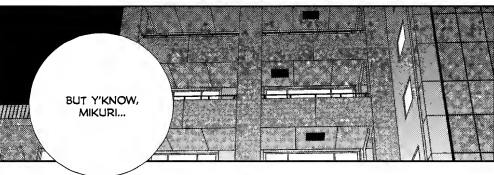
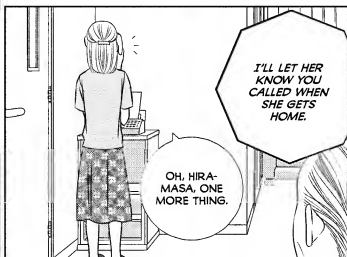
YOU TWO ARE
SO CALCULATING
ABOUT YOUR
RELATIONSHIP.

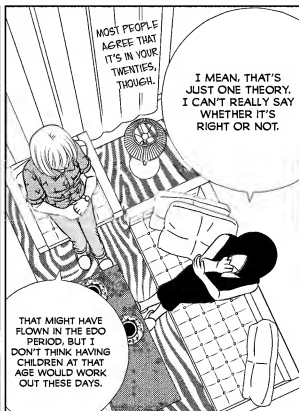
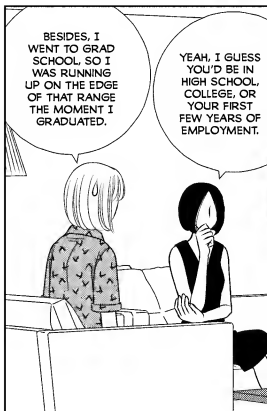
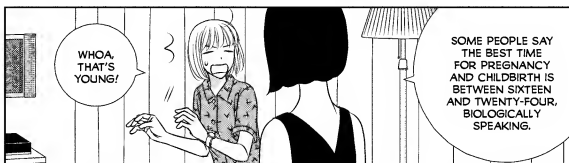


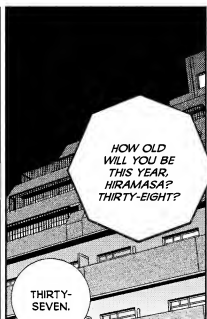
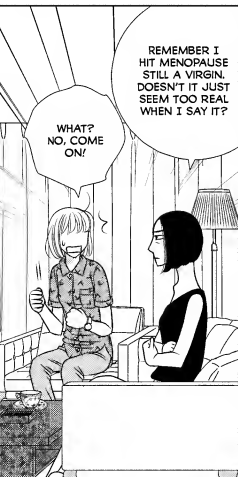


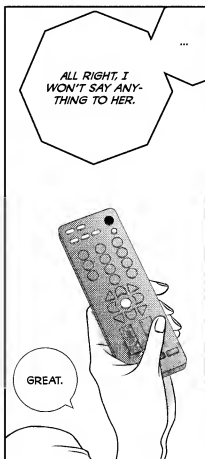




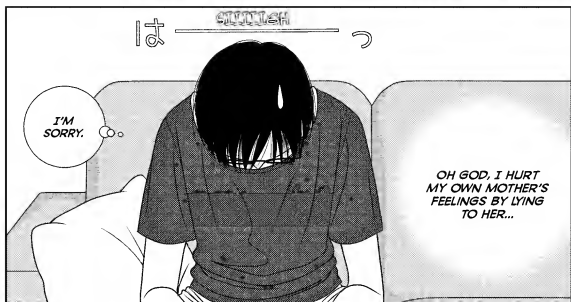


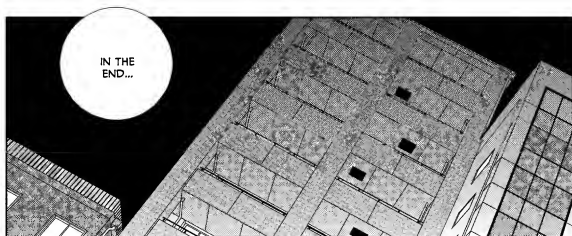


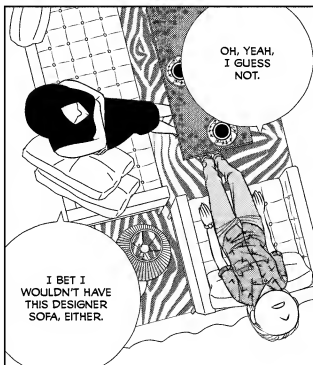
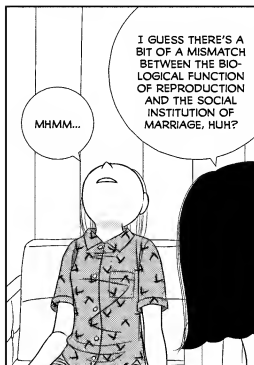
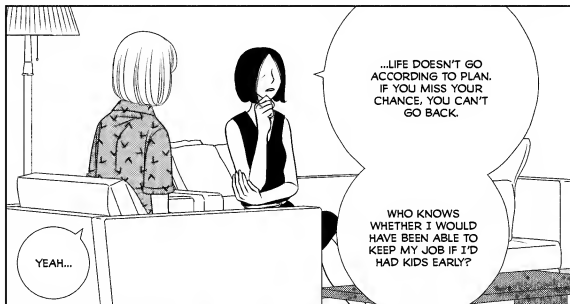


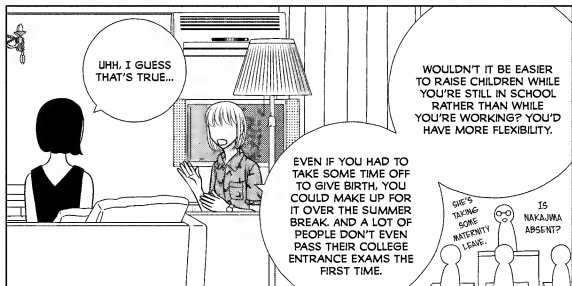
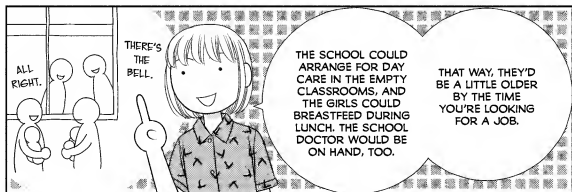
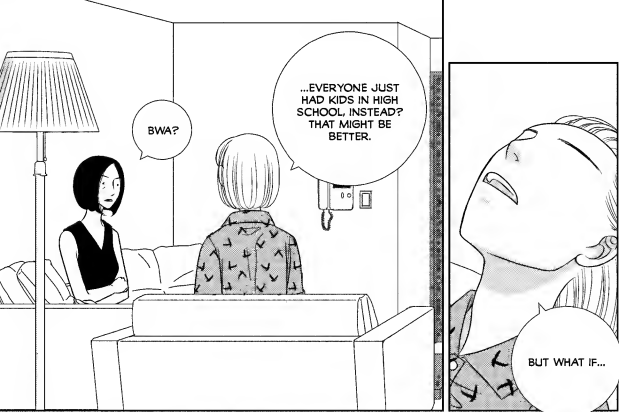


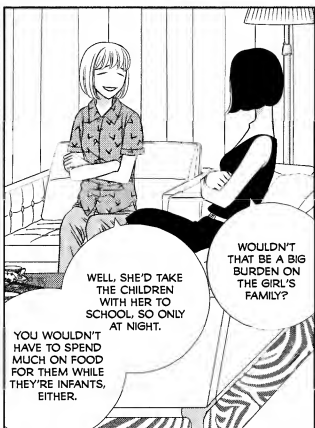
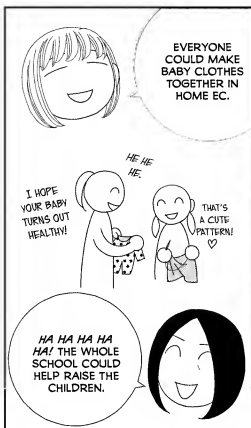
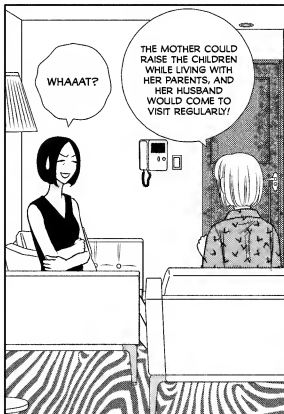


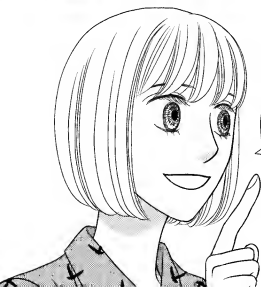
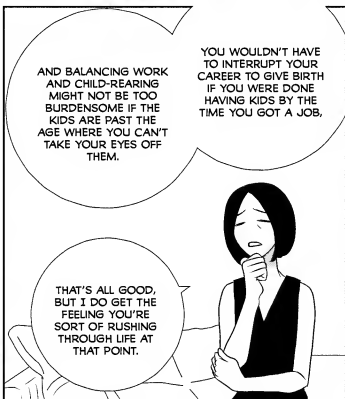
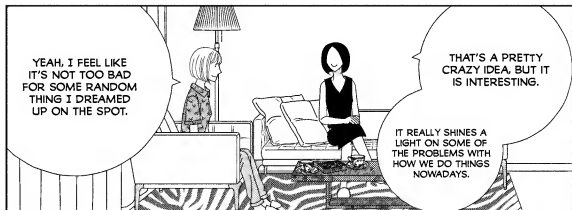


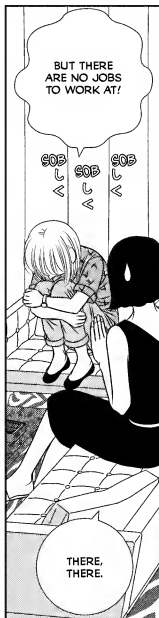












BUT THERE
ARE NO JOBS
TO WORK AT!

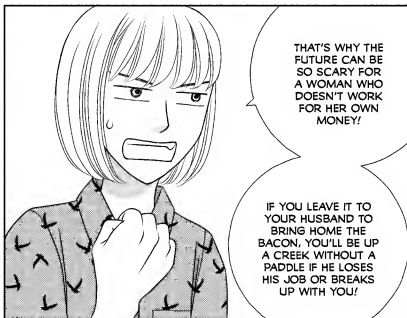
SOB
SOB
SOB

THERE,
THERE.



YEAH!
MONEY'S
CRITICAL!

NOT WITHOUT
ANY MONEY
YOU CAN'T.

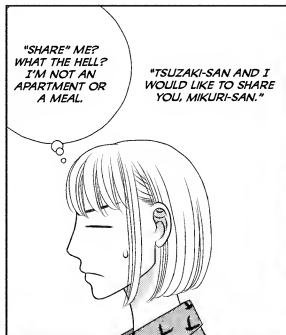


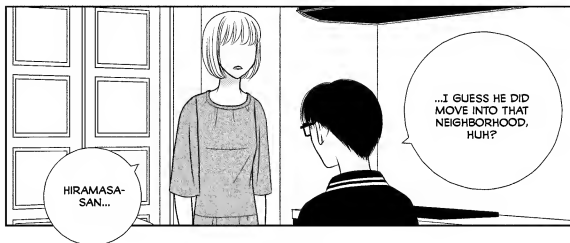
THAT'S WHY THE
FUTURE CAN BE
SO SCARY FOR
A WOMAN WHO
DOESN'T WORK
FOR HER OWN
MONEY!

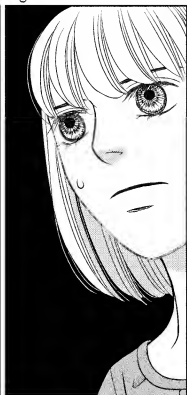
IF YOU LEAVE IT TO
YOUR HUSBAND TO
BRING HOME THE
BACON, YOU'LL BE UP
A CREEK WITHOUT A
PADDLE IF HE LOSES
HIS JOB OR BREAKS
UP WITH YOU!

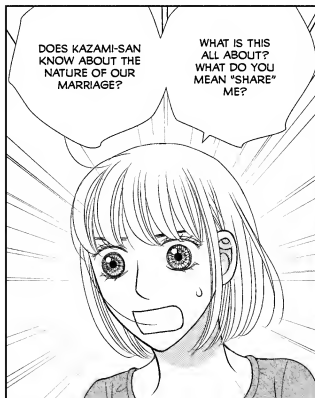


...DAMN IT.









DOES KAZAMI-SAN
KNOW ABOUT THE
NATURE OF OUR
MARRIAGE?

WHAT IS THIS
ALL ABOUT?
WHAT DO YOU
MEAN "SHARE"
ME?



HOW MUCH
HAVE YOU
HEARD?

HE SAID TO
ASK YOU FOR
THE DETAILS.

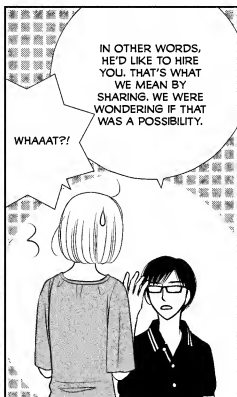


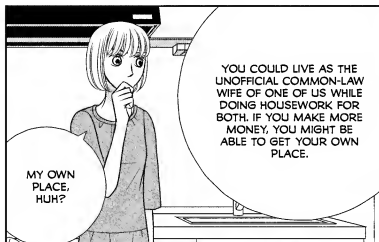
I'M SO
SORRY.

WHEN DID HE FIND
OUT? HOW DID HE
FIND OUT? WHEN DID
YOU FIND OUT THAT
HE FOUND OUT? WHY
DIDN'T YOU TELL ME
HE FOUND OUT?



LET ME SUM
THINGS UP IN
THREE POINTS.





MY OWN
PLACE,
HUH?

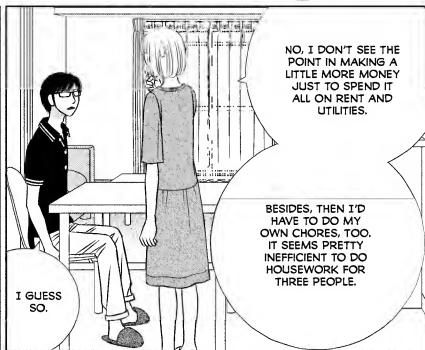
YOU COULD LIVE AS THE
UNOFFICIAL COMMON-LAW
WIFE OF ONE OF US WHILE
DOING HOUSEWORK FOR
BOTH. IF YOU MAKE MORE
MONEY, YOU MIGHT BE
ABLE TO GET YOUR OWN
PLACE.



AT THE END
OF THE DAY,
IT'S ALL UP
TO YOU.



HRRMM



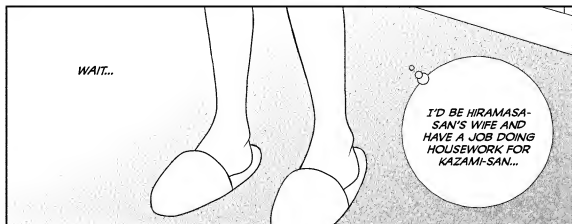
NO, I DON'T SEE THE
POINT IN MAKING A
LITTLE MORE MONEY
JUST TO SPEND IT
ALL ON RENT AND
UTILITIES.

BESIDES, THEN I'D
HAVE TO DO MY
OWN CHORES, TOO.
IT SEEMS PRETTY
INEFFICIENT TO DO
HOUSEWORK FOR
THREE PEOPLE.

I GUESS
SO.



...SO WHOSE
UNOFFICIAL WIFE
WILL YOU BE?



...DOESN'T THAT MEAN...

...I'D GO FROM BEING A HOUSEWIFE
TO BEING A WORKING WOMAN?





FOR THE SAKE OF THE
MONEY YURI-CHAN
LENT ME...

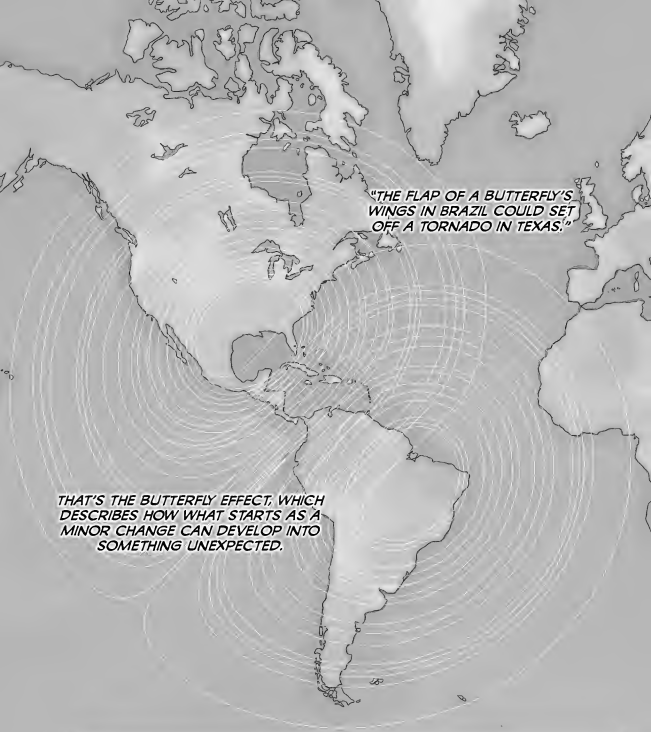


I'LL MAKE
MONEY WHILE
THERE'S MONEY
TO BE MADE!

IF THERE'S A
JOB, I'LL DO IT!

...AND FOR MY
OWN SAKE.

(GET MONEY
GET PAID)

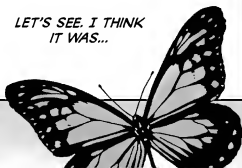


*"THE FLAP OF A BUTTERFLY'S
WINGS IN BRAZIL COULD SET
OFF A TORNADO IN TEXAS."*

*THAT'S THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT, WHICH
DESCRIBES HOW WHAT STARTS AS A
MINOR CHANGE CAN DEVELOP INTO
SOMETHING UNEXPECTED.*

*THERE WAS A PROVERB
LIKE THAT IN JAPAN,
TOO, WASN'T THERE?*

*LET'S SEE. I THINK
IT WAS...*



**If the Wind Blows, the Barrel
Maker Profits**





IF I REMEMBER
CORRECTLY, THE ONLY
DIFFERENCE IS THAT
YOU WRITE "WAGE"
WITH THE ROOT FOR
"RICE," WHEREAS
YOU WRITE "WED"
WITH THE ROOT FOR
"WOMAN."



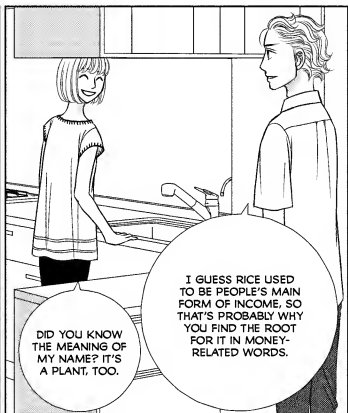
COME TO THINK
OF IT, THE CHINESE
CHARACTERS FOR
THE WORDS "WED"
AND "WAGE" ARE
REALLY SIMILAR,
AREN'T THEY?



MIKURI WAS
WEDDED FOR
WAGES...

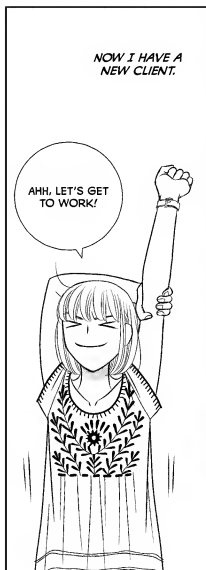
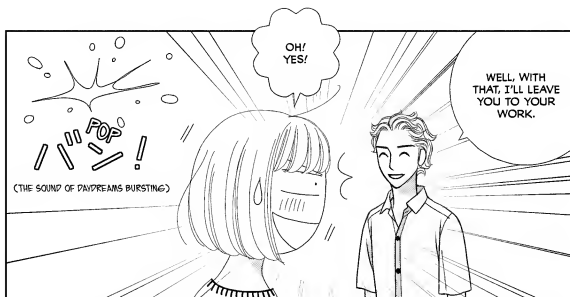
FATE MUST HAVE
PLEGGED IT.

HOVER
もや HOVER
もや HOVER
もや



DID YOU KNOW
THE MEANING OF
MY NAME? IT'S
A PLANT, TOO.

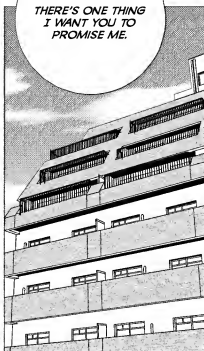
I GUESS RICE USED
TO BE PEOPLE'S MAIN
FORM OF INCOME, SO
THAT'S PROBABLY WHY
YOU FIND THE ROOT
FOR IT IN MONEY-
RELATED WORDS.



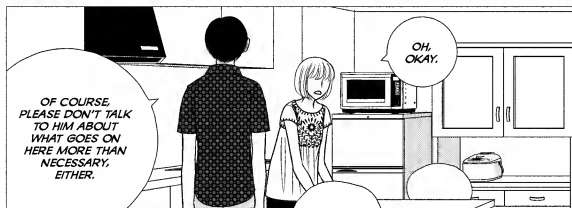
IT'S BEEN ABOUT HALF A YEAR SINCE
I GOT MARRIED AS A JOB.



DON'T COME HOME AND TALK TO ME ABOUT YOUR WORK AT KAZAMI-SAN'S PLACE.

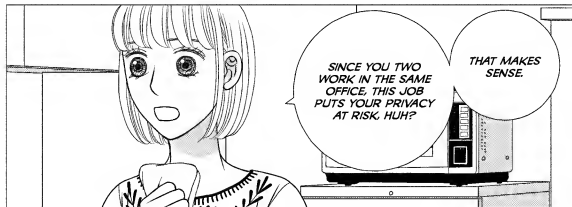


THERE'S ONE THING I WANT YOU TO PROMISE ME.



OF COURSE, PLEASE DON'T TALK TO HIM ABOUT WHAT GOES ON HERE MORE THAN NECESSARY, EITHER.

OH, OKAY.

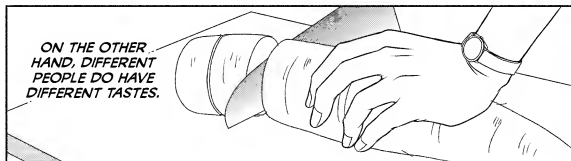
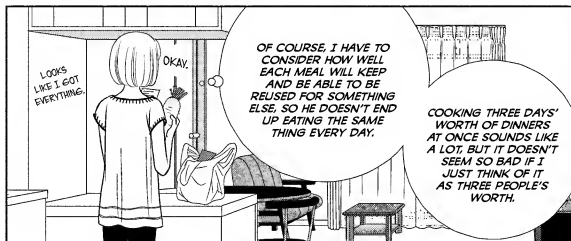
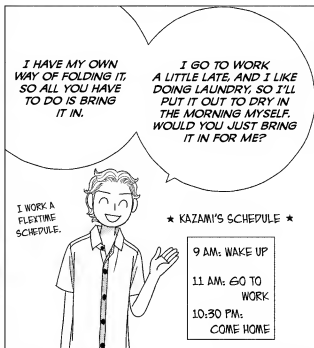


SINCE YOU TWO WORK IN THE SAME OFFICE, THIS JOB PUTS YOUR PRIVACY AT RISK, HUH?

THAT MAKES SENSE.



NONETHELESS...



HIRAMASA-SAN CAN BE PARTICULAR ABOUT THINGS, BUT IF YOU DO AS HE TELLS YOU, HE WON'T COMPLAIN, AND HE'LL NOTICE THE EFFORT YOU PUT IN.

THANK YOU FOR DOING THAT.

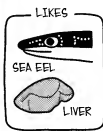
PLEASE STOP THAT.



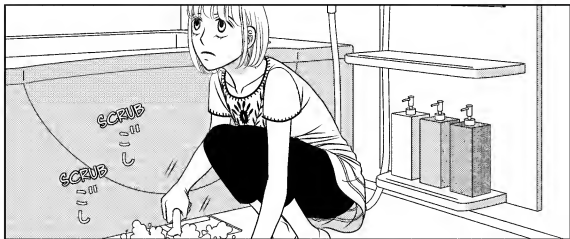
I LIKE THIS, AND I'M NOT TOO INTO THAT, BUT IT'S NOT LIKE I CAN'T EAT IT.

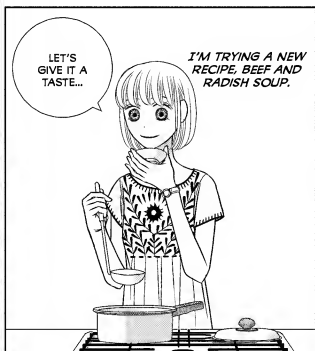
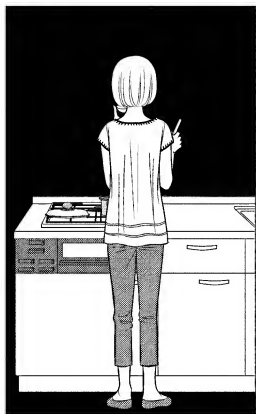
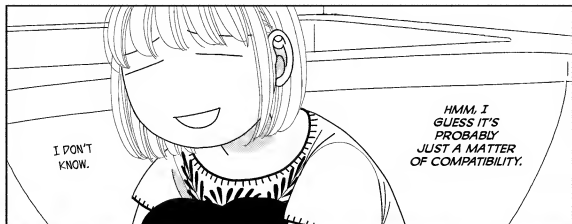
HE'S PRETTY LAID-BACK, ACTUALLY.

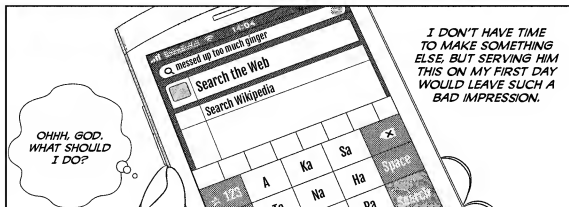
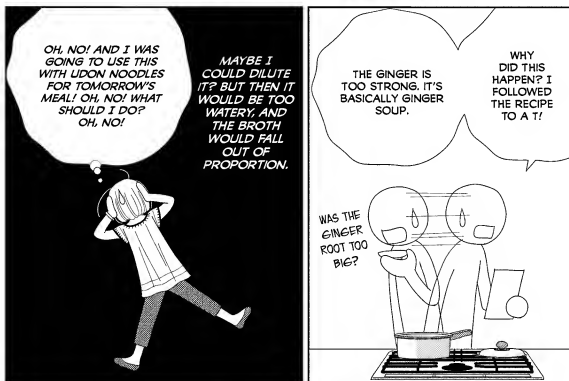
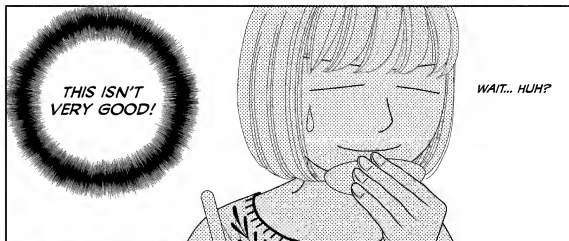
KAZAMI-SAN HAS HIS LIKES AND DISLIKES, BUT HE'S NOT TOO PICKY.

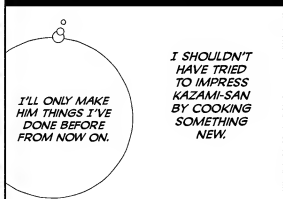
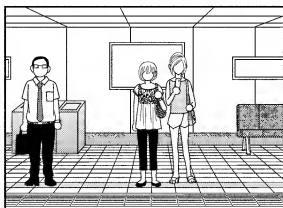
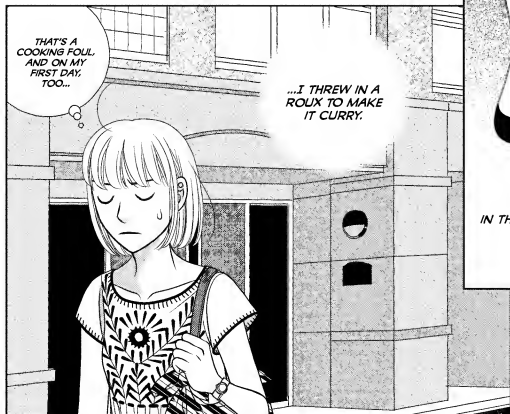


WHICH ONE WOULD MAKE BETTER MARRIAGE MATERIAL?









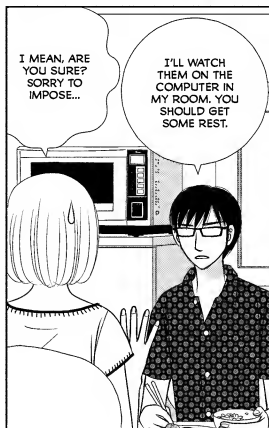
WELCOME
BACK.

I'M HOME.

...

BUT HE TOLD
ME NOT TO
TALK ABOUT
MY JOB.

I WANT TO CHAT... I WANT
TO COMPLAIN ABOUT HOW
I MESSED UP AND HOW
HARD TODAY WAS...







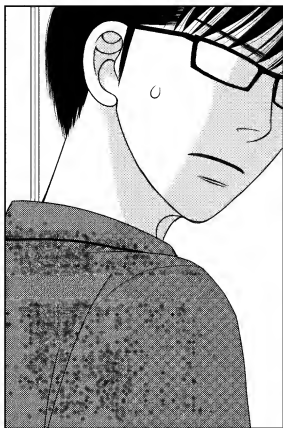
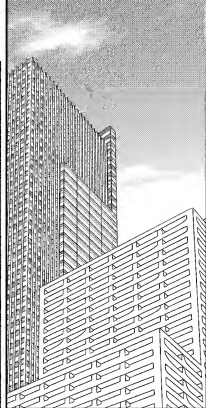
*I DON'T WANT TO HEAR
ABOUT IT IF THINGS ARE
GOING WELL...*

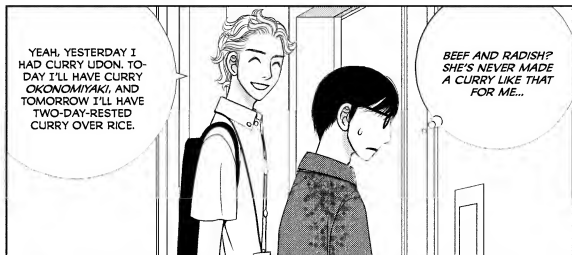
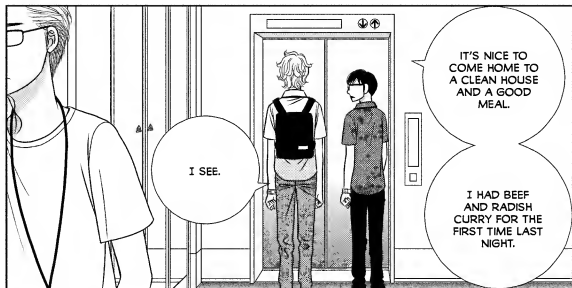
*...BUT IF SHE'S HAVING A TOUGH TIME, I WANT HER
TO TELL ME ALL ABOUT HOW HARD IT IS THERE AND
HOW MUCH BETTER THINGS ARE HERE.*



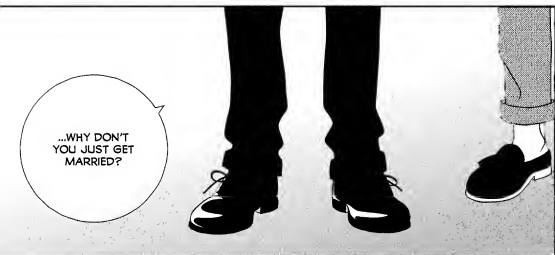
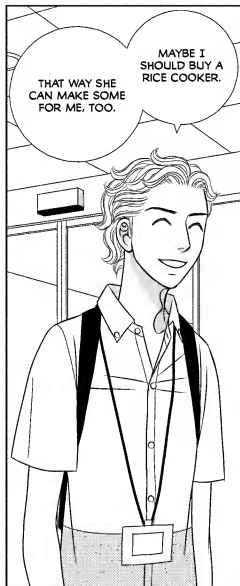
*...WHAT'S
GOTTEN
INTO ME?*

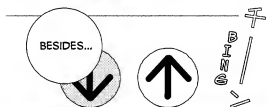
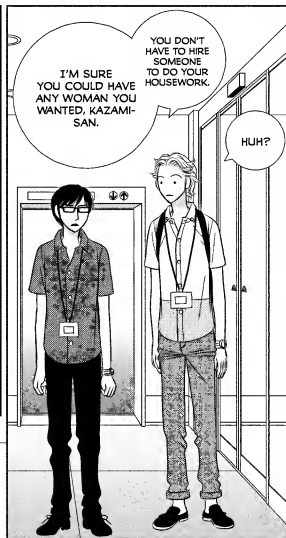
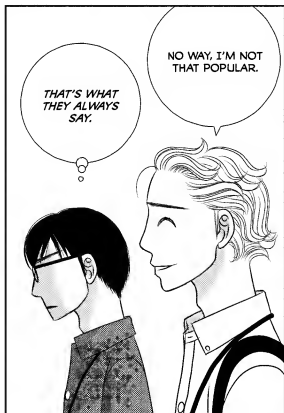
*IT'S LIKE I'M PINING
AFTER A GIRL WHO
ALREADY HAS A
BOYFRIEND...*













AND IT'S NOT
JUST MONEY YOU
LOSE TO MARRIAGE,
BUT YOUR TIME AND
EMOTIONAL ENERGY,
TOO. IT JUST SEEMS
EXHAUSTING WHEN I
THINK ABOUT IT.

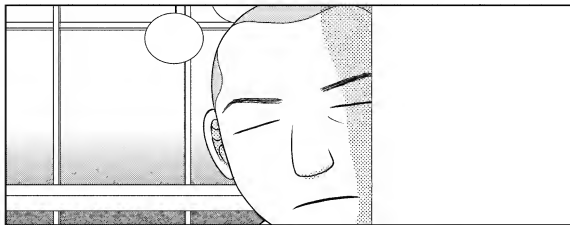


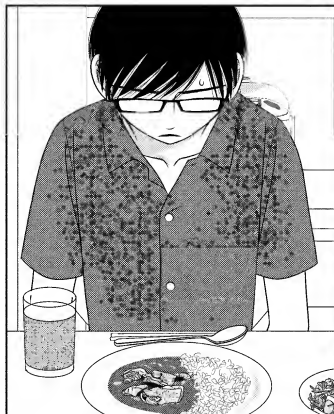
YOU MASK WHAT'S
BASICALLY AN EMPLOY-
MENT ARRANGEMENT
WITH YOUR FEELINGS AND MAKE
YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO
EACH OTHER THAT MUCH
MORE VAGUE, WHICH THEN
LEADS TO ARGUMENTS
WHEN TROUBLE REARS
ITS UGLY HEAD.



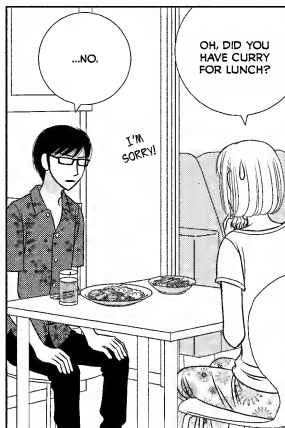
WHEN I
HEARD ABOUT YOUR
ARRANGEMENT, TSUZAKI-SAN,
I WAS LIKE, "OHH, MAYBE
THAT'S WHAT I'VE BEEN
LOOKING FOR."

IT HAD NEVER
OCCURRED TO ME TO
USE THE INSTITUTION OF
MARRIAGE AS A FORM
OF EMPLOYMENT.





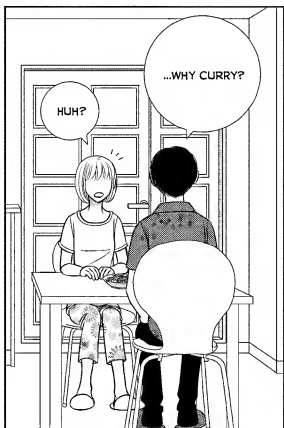
WE'RE HAVING
CURRY TODAY.



...NO.

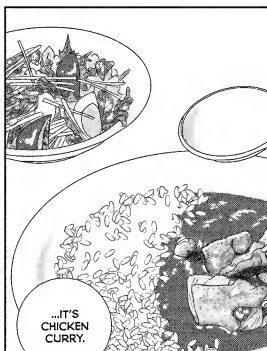
I'M
SORRY!

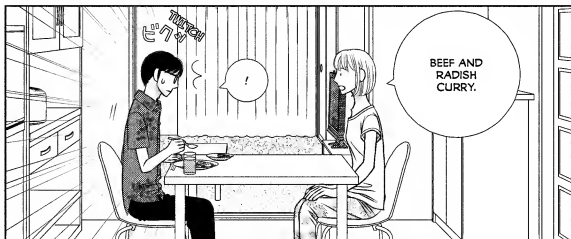
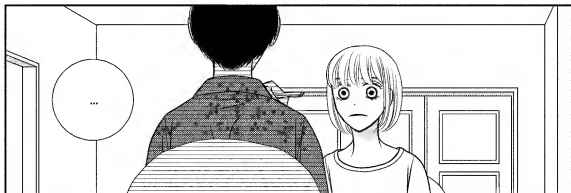
OH, DID YOU
HAVE CURRY
FOR LUNCH?



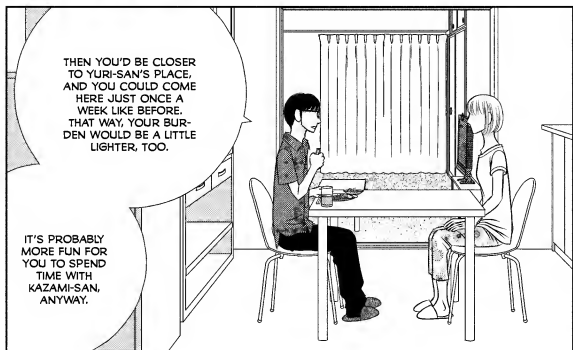
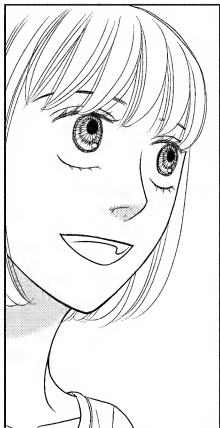
HUH?

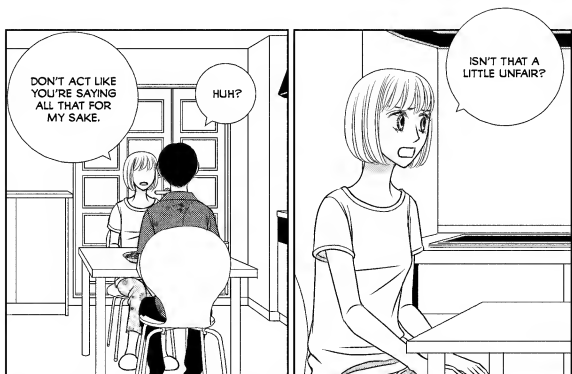
...WHY CURRY?

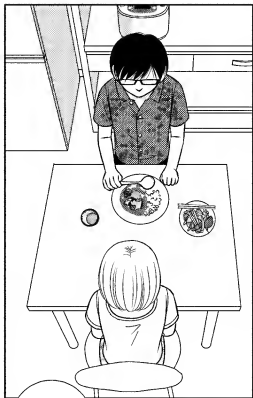












IF I SAID THAT...





AND THEN...

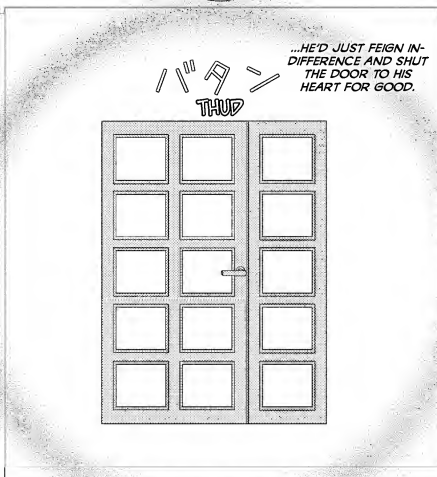


THANKS FOR
DINNER.



IT'S NOT THAT
HE'S COLD.

HE'S JUST
RUNNING
AWAY.



バタン
THUD

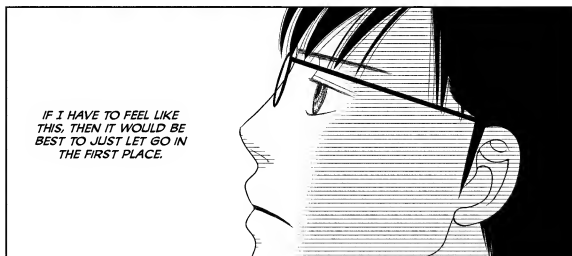
...HE'D JUST FEIGN IN-
DIFFERENCE AND SHUT
THE DOOR TO HIS
HEART FOR GOOD.



*I'M GOING TO END
UP HATING HER
AND MYSELF.*

*NOTHING'S GOING
TO COME OF THESE
FEELINGS.*

*I DON'T WANT
TO HAVE TO
DEAL WITH
THIS.*



*IF I HAVE TO FEEL LIKE
THIS, THEN IT WOULD BE
BEST TO JUST LET GO IN
THE FIRST PLACE.*



*AFTER ALL, THAT'S HOW
I'VE MADE IT THIS FAR
WITH MY PEACE AND
QUIET INTACT.*



SIGH
/\
P





12

The Dog That Trots About Finds a Bone

*I'M OUT DRINKING
WITH MY COLLEGE
FRIENDS FOR THE
FIRST TIME IN A
WHILE TODAY.*

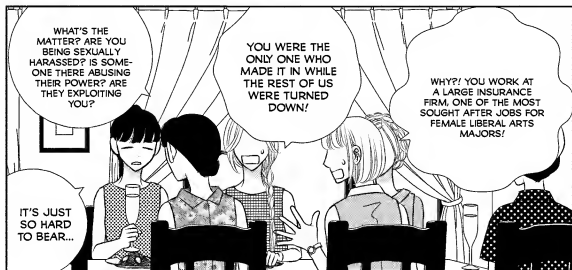
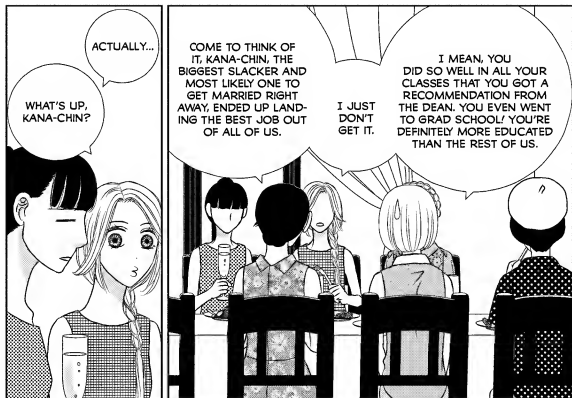
YEAH, I GOT
A NEW CLIENT
RECENTLY, SO
IT'S BEEN PRETTY
ROUGH.

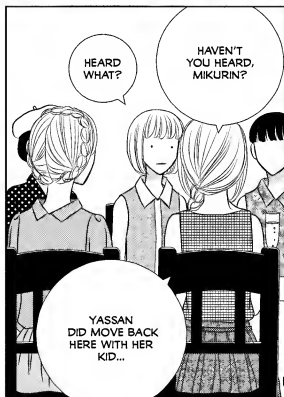


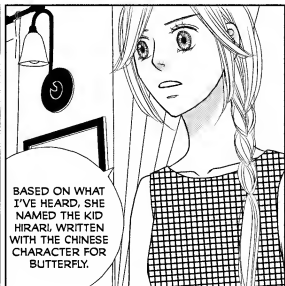
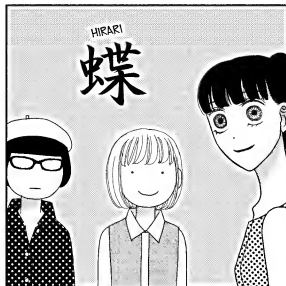
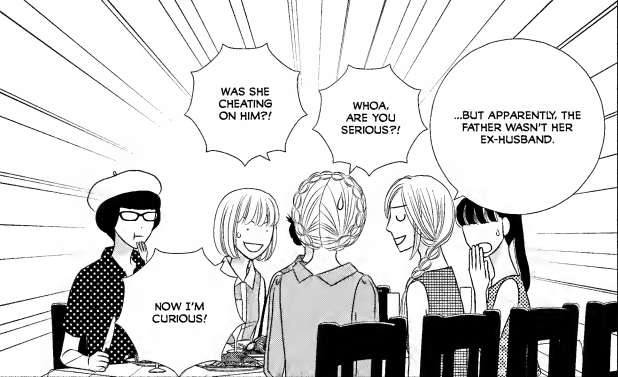
WHAT? SO
YOU'RE STILL
DOING PEOPLE'S
HOUSEWORK FOR
A LIVING?

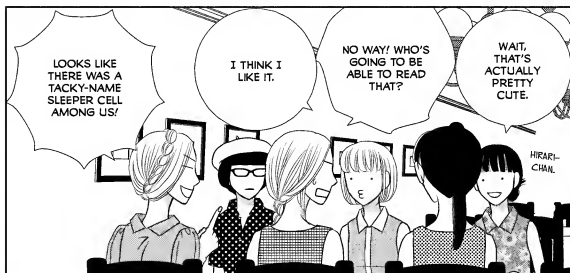
OF COURSE, I CAN'T
TELL THEM THAT I
GOT MARRIED TO ONE
OF MY CLIENTS SO I
COULD LIVE WITH HIM
AFTER MY PARENTS
MOVED AWAY.

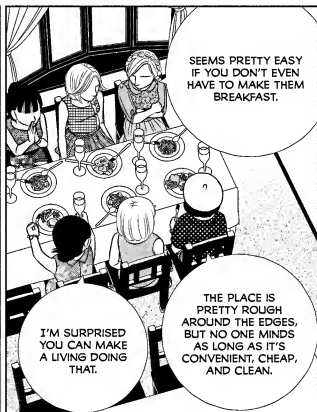
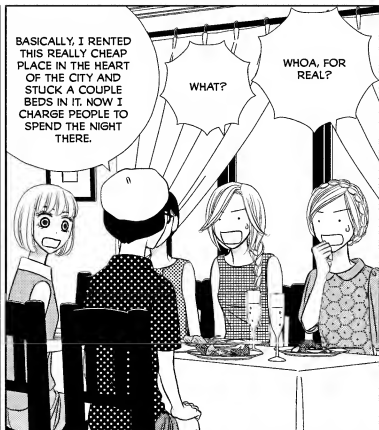
YOU'RE
SERIOUSLY A
PROFESSIONAL
HOUSE CLEANER,
MIKURIN?

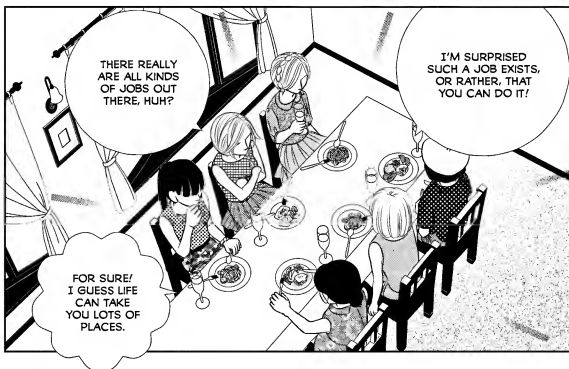
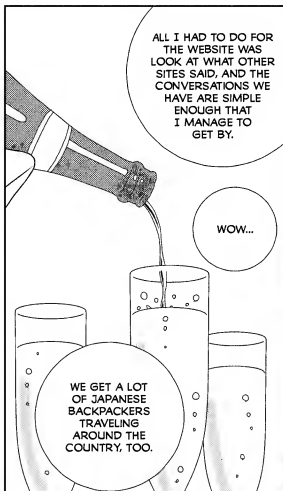


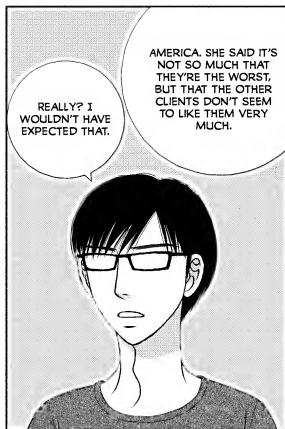














MAYBE
THEY'RE TOO
PUSHY OR
SOMETHING.

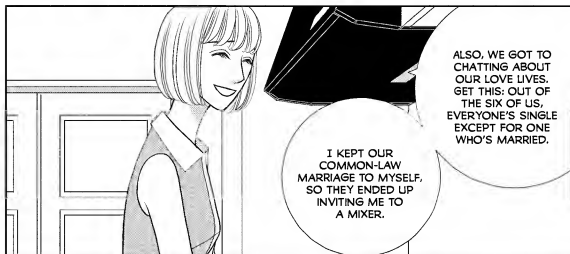
YEAH, THAT
COULD BE IT.



APPARENTLY, PEOPLE
FROM ALL THESE
DIFFERENT COUNTRIES
WILL BE HAVING FUN
TOGETHER, BUT AS
SOON AS AN AMERICAN
SHOWS UP, THEY START
TO DISPERSE.

WHY IS
THAT?

I WONDERED
THAT, TOO.
MAYBE IT'S JUST
RANDOM.



ALSO, WE GOT TO
CHATting ABOUT
OUR LOVE LIVES.
GET THIS: OUT OF
THE SIX OF US,
EVERYONE'S SINGLE
EXCEPT FOR ONE
WHO'S MARRIED.

I KEPT OUR
COMMON-LAW
MARRIAGE TO MYSELF,
SO THEY ENDED UP
INVITING ME TO
A MIXER.



I THINK YOU
SHOULD GO.

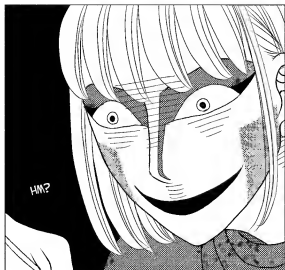
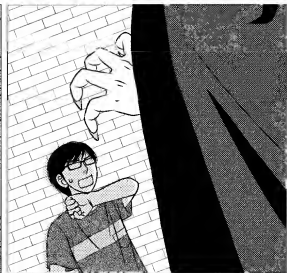
JUST DON'T TELL
ME ABOUT IT.

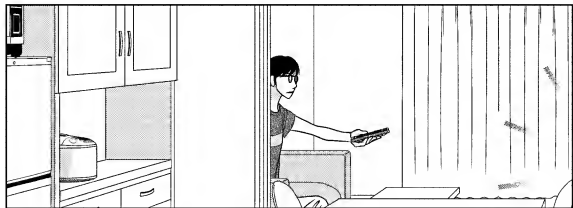
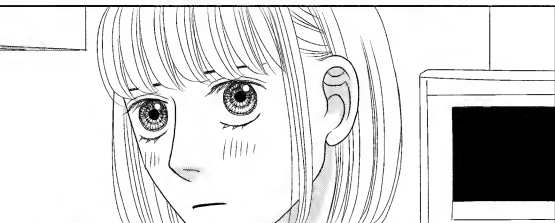
I MEAN, NOT LIKE
I'D GO! THERE'S NO
TELLING WHO MIGHT
BE THERE OR WHERE
IT MIGHT BE.

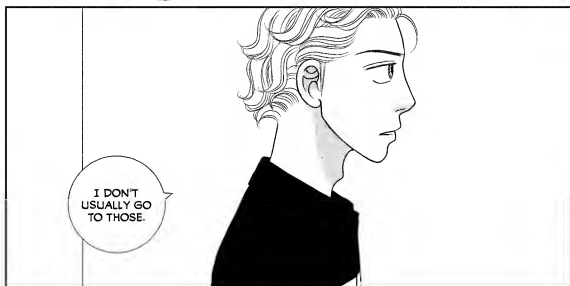
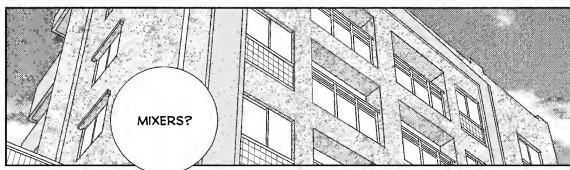
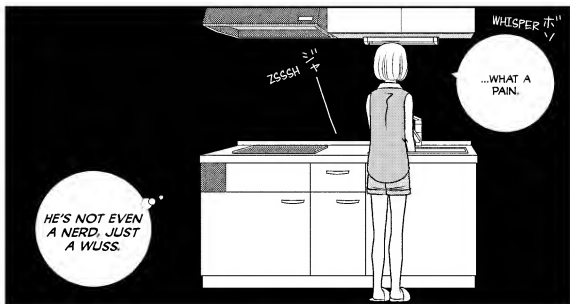
WHAT-
EVER.

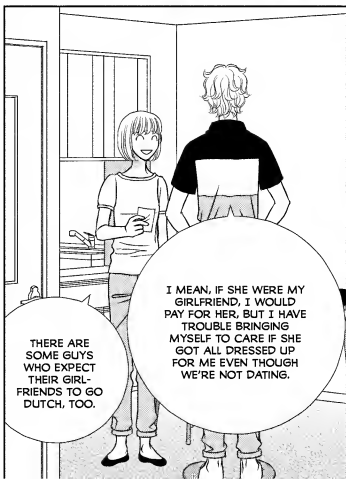
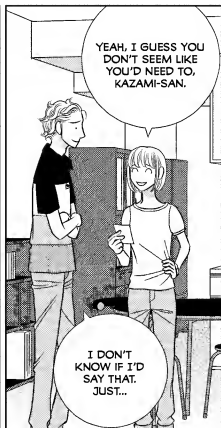
THERE'S THAT
WALL AGAIN.

HIRAMASA-SAN WITHDRAWS
BEHIND IT EVERY TIME I
BRING UP THE SLIGHTEST
HINT OF ANOTHER MAN.



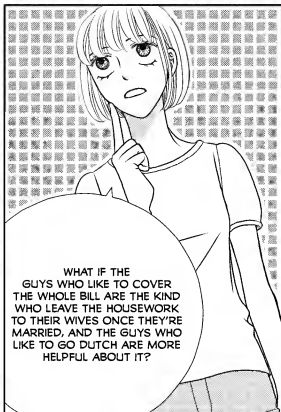




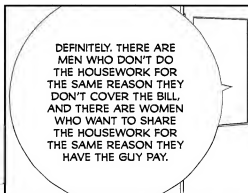




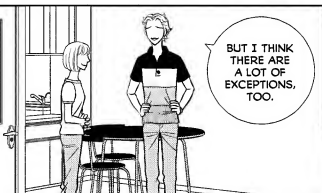
I COULD SEE THERE
BEING PEOPLE
WITH THAT KIND OF
MENTALITY.



WHAT IF THE
GUYS WHO LIKE TO COVER
THE WHOLE BILL ARE THE KIND
WHO LEAVE THE HOUSEWORK
TO THEIR WIVES ONCE THEY'RE
MARRIED, AND THE GUYS WHO
LIKE TO GO DUTCH ARE MORE
HELPFUL ABOUT IT?



DEFINITELY. THERE ARE
MEN WHO DON'T DO
THE HOUSEWORK FOR
THE SAME REASON THEY
DON'T COVER THE BILL,
AND THERE ARE WOMEN
WHO WANT TO SHARE
THE HOUSEWORK FOR
THE SAME REASON THEY
HAVE THE GUY PAY.



BUT I THINK
THERE ARE
A LOT OF
EXCEPTIONS,
TOO.



GOT IT. BYE
NOW.

ANYWAY,
I'LL SEE
YOU LATER.

PICK ME UP SOME
TOILET PAPER WHILE
YOU'RE AT THE
STORE, PLEASE.

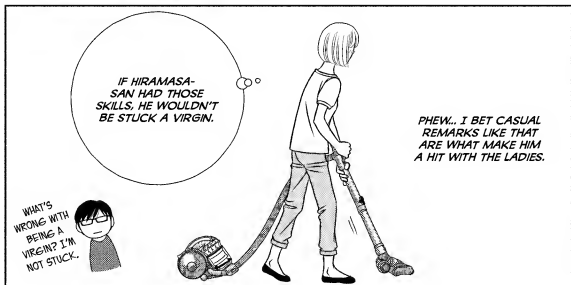


Y'KNOW, I
WOULD GO TO
A MIXER IF YOU
WERE THERE,
MIKURI-SAN.

IT'S FUN
CHATting WITH
YOU. I ALWAYS
LEARN SOME-
THING NEW.



OHHHHH, MY
GOD!



IF HIRAMASA-
SAN HAD THOSE
SKILLS, HE WOULDN'T
BE STUCK A VIRGIN.

PHEW... I BET CASUAL
REMARKS LIKE THAT
ARE WHAT MAKE HIM
A HIT WITH THE LADIES.

WHAT'S
WRONG WITH
BEING A
VIRGIN? I'M
NOT STUCK.

HE GRADUATED FROM A PRESTIGIOUS SCHOOL LIKE KYOTO UNIVERSITY, SEEMS TO BE GOOD AT HIS JOB, AND HAS A STABLE INCOME. HE HAS HONEST PARENTS. HE TAKES THINGS SERIOUSLY AND HAS A GOOD PERSONALITY, AND HELL, HE'S NOT EVEN TOO BAD-LOOKING.

I THINK HE'S PROUD OF ALL THAT.



I DON'T THINK HIRAMASA-SAN LACKS CONFIDENCE, BUT HE MIGHT HAVE LOW SELF-ESTEEM.



SELF-ESTEEM...

...YOUR FUNDAMENTAL SENSE OF YOUR OWN WORTH.

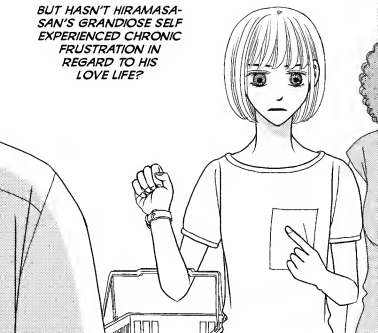


PEOPLE WITH LOW SELF-ESTEEM GIVE MORE WEIGHT TO THEIR EXPERIENCES OF FAILURE, SO THEY'RE MORE NEGATIVE TOWARD THEMSELVES.

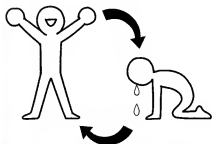


PEOPLE WITH HIGH SELF-ESTEEM GIVE MORE WEIGHT TO THEIR EXPERIENCES OF SUCCESS, SO THEY'RE MORE AFFIRMATIVE TOWARD THEMSELVES.

BUT HASN'T HIRAMASA-
SAN'S GRANDIOSE SELF
EXPERIENCED CHRONIC
FRUSTRATION IN
REGARD TO HIS
LOVE LIFE?



TO FOSTER AN APPROPRIATE
SENSE OF SELF-LOVE, IT'S
CRITICAL THAT THE AMBITIONS
OF A PERSON'S "GRANDIOSE
SELF" BE BOTH FULFILLED AND
FRUSTRATED TO THE RIGHT
DEGREE AS THEY MATURE.



AND TO AVOID BEING LET DOWN OR
DISAPPOINTED, HE REPRESSES HIS
FEELINGS AND NEGATES THE OTHER.
HE TRIES TO GET THROUGH LIFE BY
SIMPLY REFUSING HUMAN CONTACT.

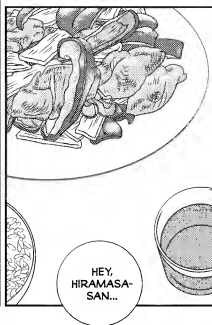
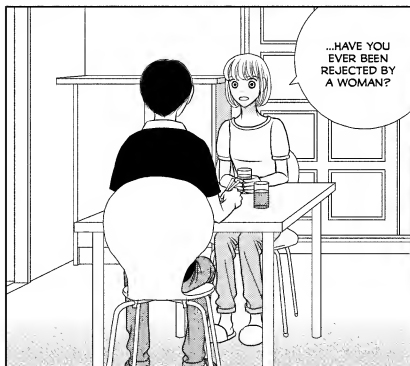
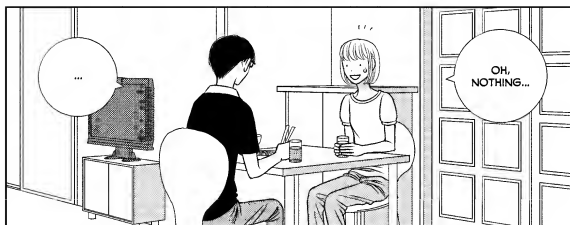


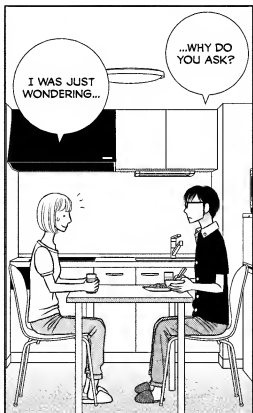
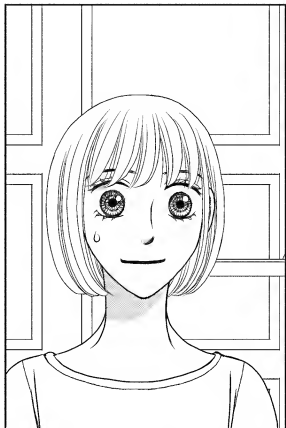
OH, MAN!
WE COVERED
THAT IN GRAD
SCHOOL!



THAT'S WHAT
GABBARD CALLS
HYPERVIGILANT
NARCISSISM!

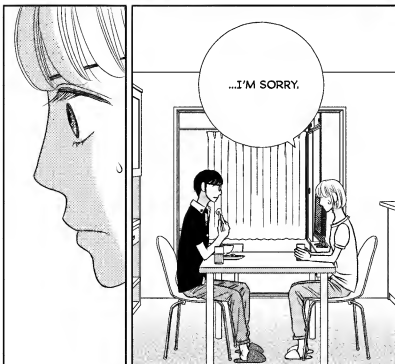
KOHUT CALLS IT
A HORIZONTAL
SPLIT!

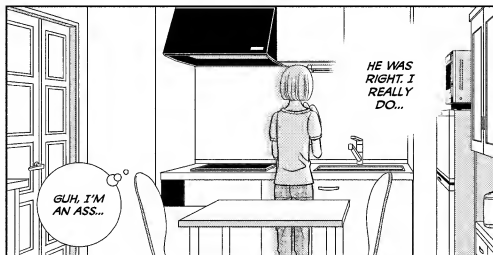
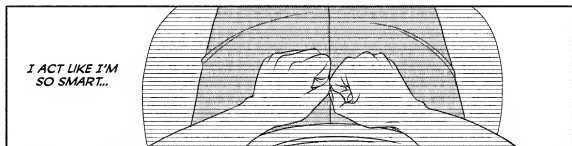
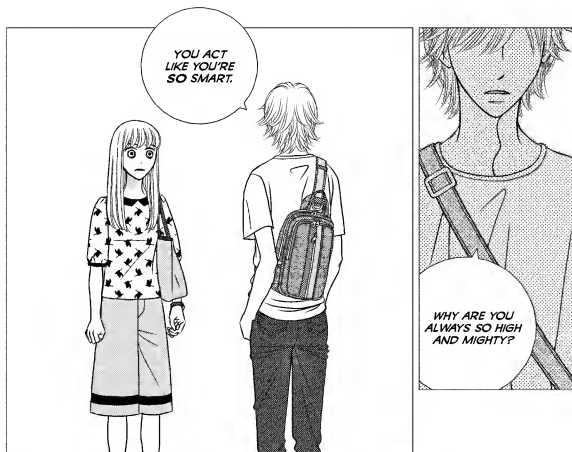


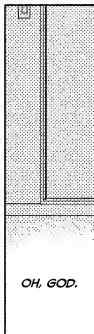


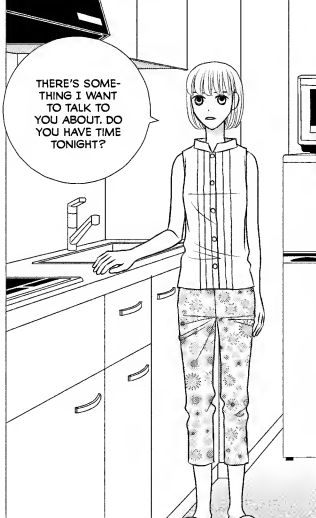


THAT REMINDS ME
OF THE LAST THING
MY FIRST BOYFRIEND
IN COLLEGE SAID
TO ME.

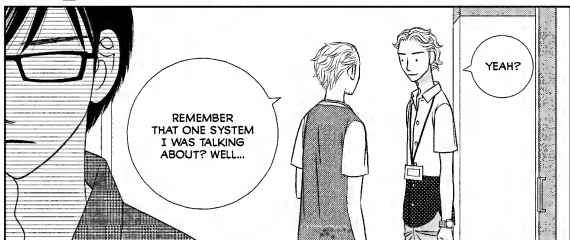








OH, GOD.



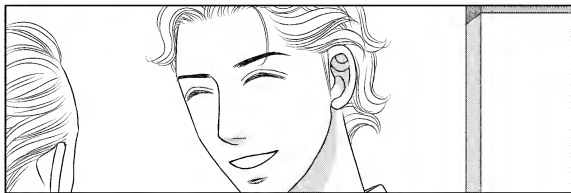


...I WONDER IF MIKURI-SAN'S
GOING TO MOVE IN WITH HIM.



I EVEN GOT
TO ENJOY
SOMETHING
LIKE THE
FEELING OF
ROMANCE
BRIEFLY.

OUR
ARRANGEMENT
ONLY LASTED A
BIT MORE THAN
SIX MONTHS, BUT
IT WAS MORE FUN
THAN I THOUGHT
IT WOULD BE.



IT MUST BE NICE
TO BE LOVED.



...IT MUST BE
NICE.

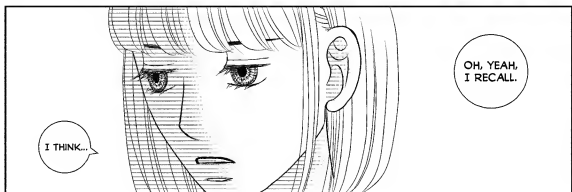
SO LIKE I SAID
THIS MORNING,
THERE'S SOME-
THING I WANTED
TO TALK TO YOU
ABOUT.



HAVE
SOME
TEA.

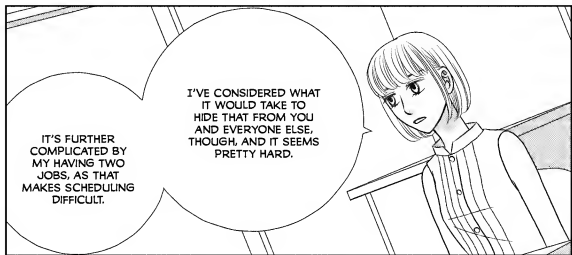
THANK
YOU.





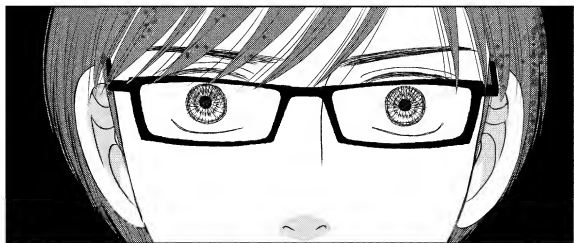


...I WANT TO DATE
SOMEONE.

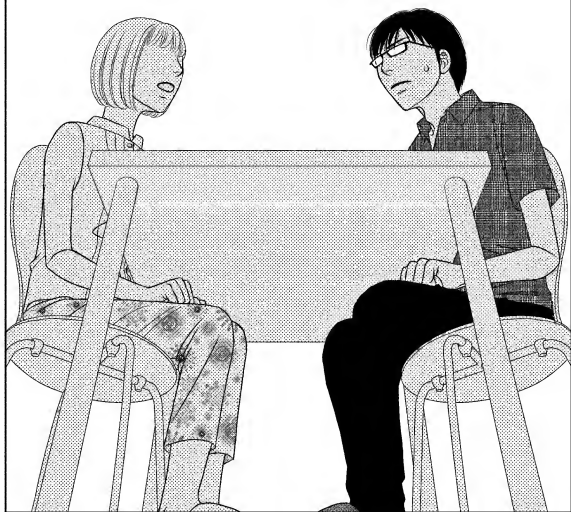


IT'S FURTHER
COMPLICATED BY
MY HAVING TWO
JOBS, AS THAT
MAKES SCHEDULING
DIFFICULT.

I'VE CONSIDERED WHAT
IT WOULD TAKE TO
HIDE THAT FROM YOU
AND EVERYONE ELSE,
THOUGH, AND IT SEEMS
PRETTY HARD.



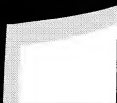
...WOULD
YOU GO OUT
WITH ME?

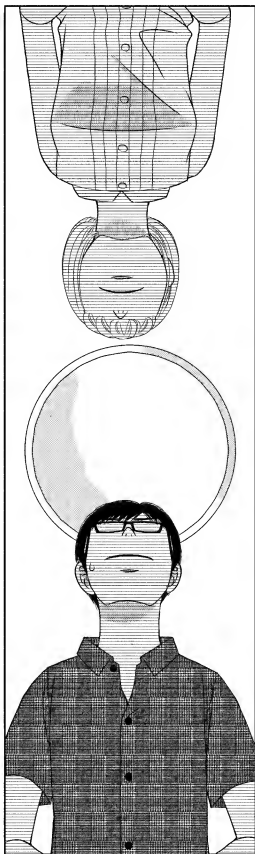
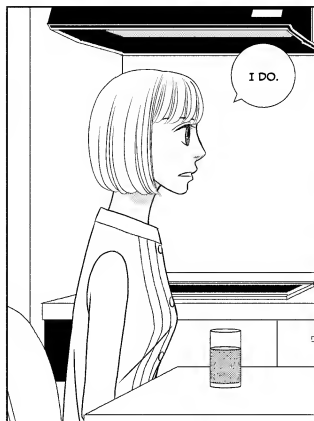


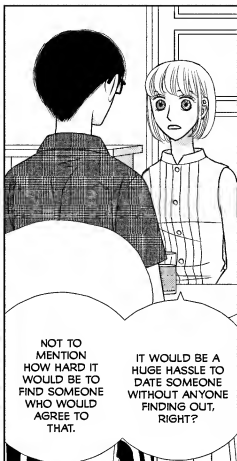


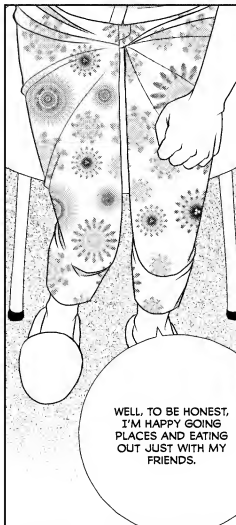
13

He Who Chases Two Rabbits
Catches Neither One

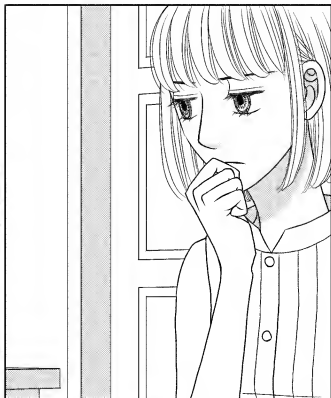








WELL, TO BE HONEST,
I'M HAPPY GOING
PLACES AND EATING
OUT JUST WITH MY
FRIENDS.



HMM...

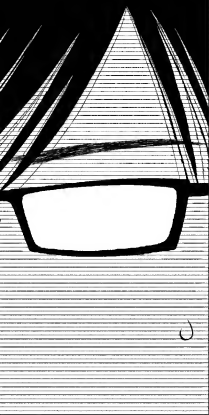


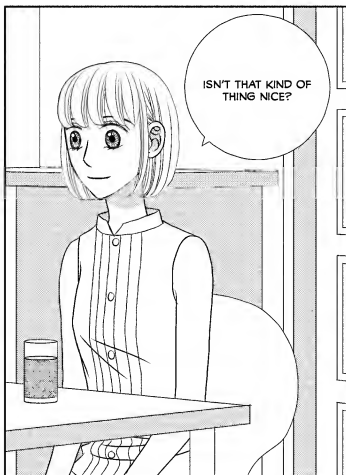
HUH?

BUT THERE'S
ONE HOLE IN
MY LIFE THAT A
FRIEND CAN'T
FILL...

*SHE WANTS TO FILL
A HOLE THAT SHE
CAN'T WITH A FRIEND
THROUGH PHYSICAL
INTIMACY?!*

*WAIT, DOES SHE
MEAN...*





*BUT OUT OF FEAR,
HIRAMASA-SAN RUNS
AWAY FROM THE VERY
RELATIONSHIPS THAT
WOULD OFFER HIM
THOSE THINGS.*



*PRAISE, RECOGNITION,
ENCOURAGEMENT,
AFFIRMATION, AND
COMPASSION FROM
OTHERS ARE THE THINGS
THAT SUPPORT A PERSON'S
SELF-ESTEEM AND ALLOW
THEM TO ACT WITH
CONFIDENCE.*

*I SUPPOSE
I'M TAKING A
PSYCHODRAMATIC
APPROACH TO
THIS CASE.*

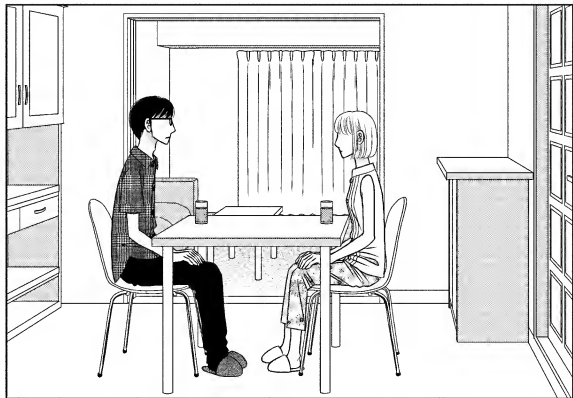


*HE TRIES TO AVOID
ASSOCIATING WITH
WOMEN, BUT I THINK
HE MIGHT BE ABLE TO
DO IT IF IT'S GIVEN TO
HIM AS A ROLE TO PLAY.*

*HE MIGHT BE ABLE TO
EXPERIENCE THOSE
FEELINGS HE'S MISSED
OUT ON VICARIOUSLY
BY PLAYING THAT ROLE.*

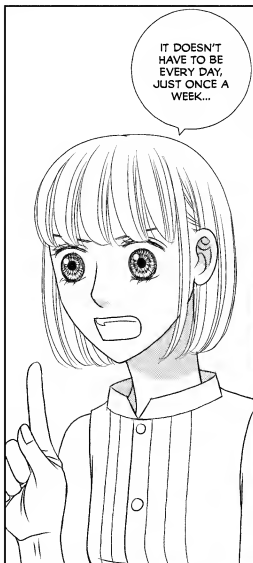
IN OTHER WORDS...

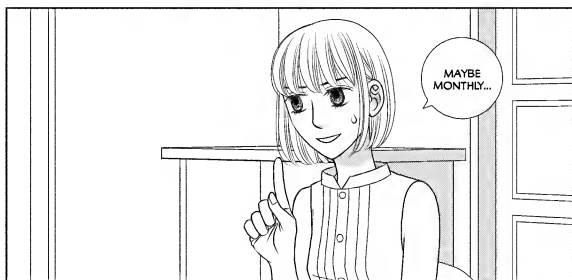
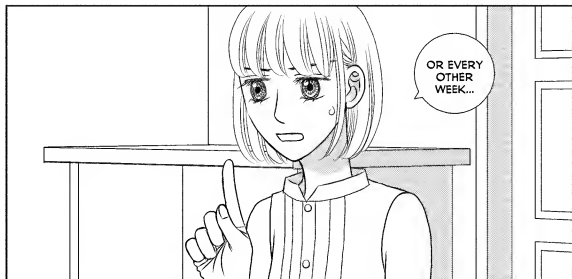


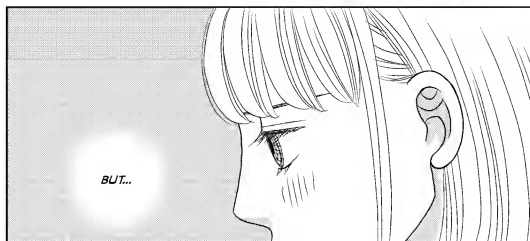


UMM...

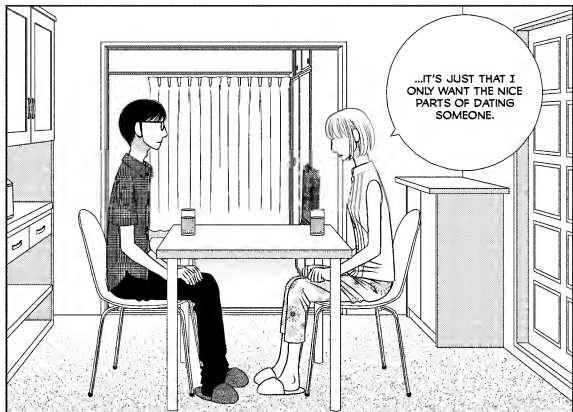








THE THING IS...





SO MUCH FOR
THAT IDEA. AND I
THOUGHT IT WAS A
GOOD ONE, TOO.





GOD DAMN IT! I
BROKE UP WITH HIM
A LONG TIME AGO. I
CAN'T LET WHAT HE
SAID RULE MY LIFE!

IT'S NOT LIKE
YOU CAN MAKE
IT IN THIS WORLD
WITHOUT BEING
SMART!

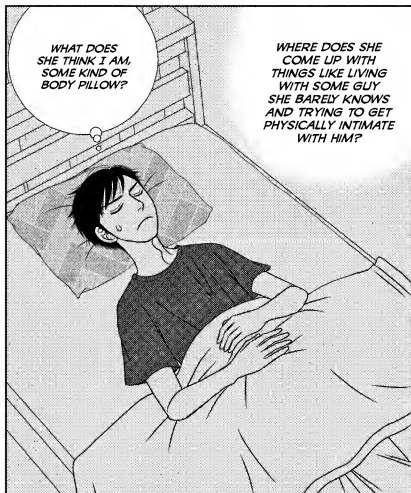


ACTING
SMART IS
JUST WHO
I AM!

IN FACT,
I'M GOING
TO WORK ON
BEING EVEN
SMARTER!

...SMARTER
IN A WAY
THAT PEOPLE
WON'T HATE
ME FOR.





MIKURI-SAN
ALWAYS MANAGES
TO SURPRISE ME.





*THEN AGAIN, AM I
REALLY SOME GUY SHE
BARELY KNOWS?*

*COULD I ACTUALLY BE
CLOSER TO HER THAN ANY
OTHER MAN IN HER LIFE?*





...WHAT DOES SHE MEAN BY "JUST THE NICE PARTS OF DATING SOMEONE"?

DOES SHE WANT A BUSINESSLIKE BOYFRIEND, WHO DOESN'T MAKE HER BOTHER WITH HASSLES LIKE DATES OR TEXTING, OR EVEN CASUAL SEX?

I GUESS YOU CAN'T REALLY CALL IT BUSINESSLIKE IF NO ONE'S PAYING, THOUGH.



SHE WANTS SOMEONE TO HUG HER AND PAT HER HEAD...

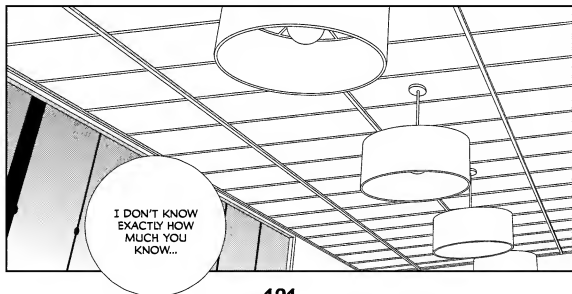
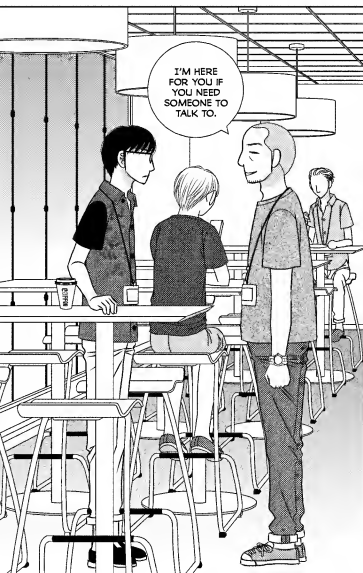


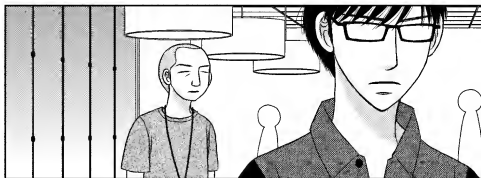
I GUESS
THAT MEANS IT'S
BEEN ABOUT
THIRTY YEARS
SINCE ANYONE'S
HUGGED ME...



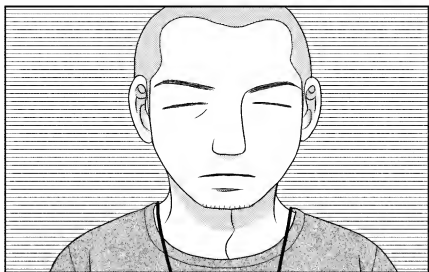








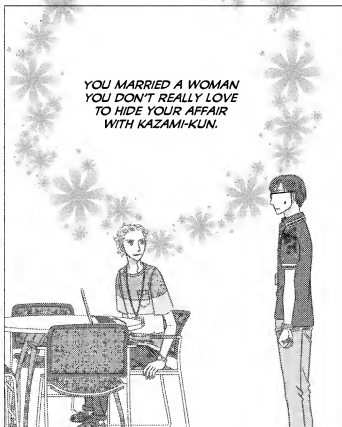
I KNOW,
TSUZAKI-KUN.





I'M CHEERING
YOU ON. IT BREAKS
MY HEART, BUT
I'M CHEERING
YOU ON.

I'LL EVEN
HELP YOU
CHEAT IF YOU
NEED ME TO.



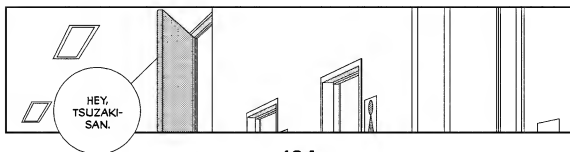
YOU MARRIED A WOMAN
YOU DON'T REALLY LOVE
TO HIDE YOUR AFFAIR
WITH KAZAMI-KUN.



HE IS A
PRETTY
SHREWD GUY,
THOUGH.

STILL, THERE'S NO
DENYING THAT
WE DON'T SEEM
LIKE A COUPLE.

SO EVEN
NUMATA-SAN'S
NOTICED. THAT'S
SCARY...





WHY DON'T
YOU JUST
GIVE IT A REST,
HINO-SAN?

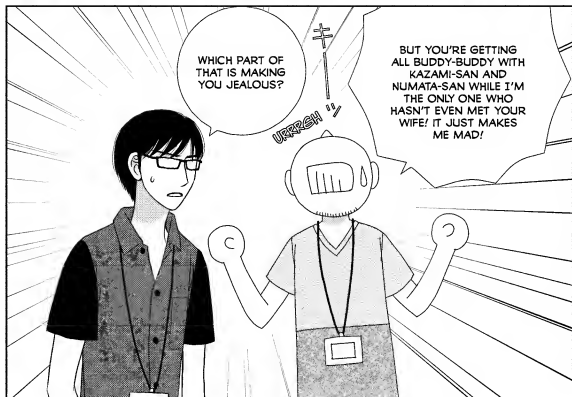
COME ON, I WON'T
CANCEL AT THE
LAST MINUTE THIS
TIME! PROBABLY! I
MEAN, I CAN'T SAY
FOR SURE!



UH...

YOU'RE
TRYING
TO MAKE
PLANS
WITH ME
AGAIN?

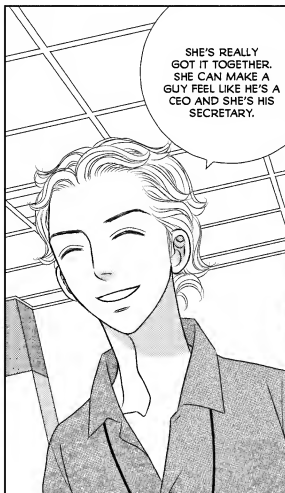
I WAS THINKING
WE COULD GET
TOGETHER WITH BOTH
OUR FAMILIES AND
HAVE A BARBECUE.
WHAT DO YOU
SAY?



WHICH PART OF
THAT IS MAKING
YOU JEALOUS?

URRRGH!!

BUT YOU'RE GETTING
ALL BUDDY-BUDDY WITH
KAZAMI-SAN AND
NUMATA-SAN WHILE I'M
THE ONLY ONE WHO
HASN'T EVEN MET YOUR
WIFE! IT JUST MAKES
ME MAD!



RUBBED THE
WRONG WAY.

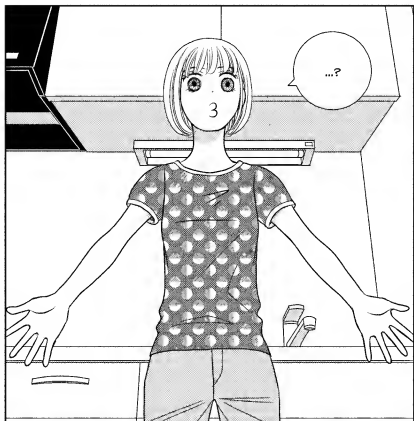




THAT REALLY DID RUB ME THE WRONG WAY...







OH...

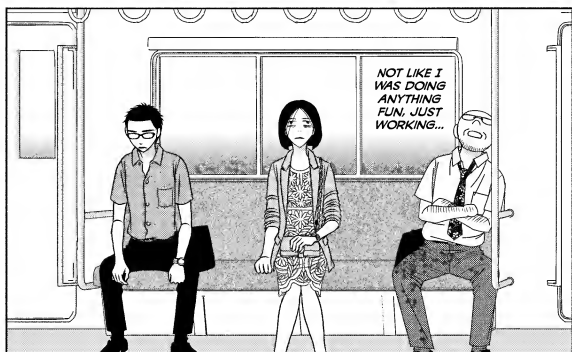
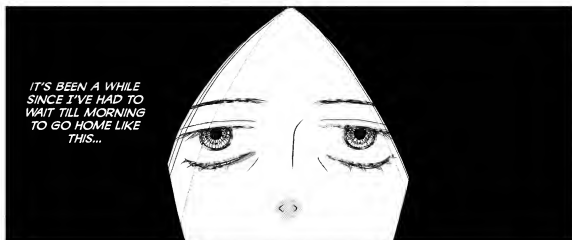
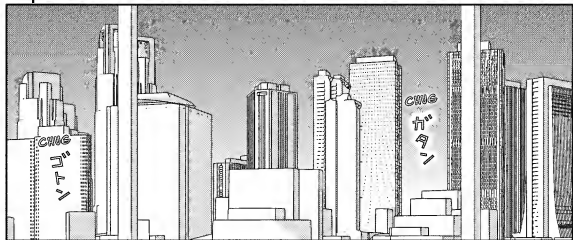
...IS THIS WHAT
IT'S LIKE TO
WANT A HUG?



NO, NO, NO, NO, NO.



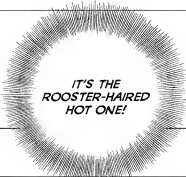
Chapter 14



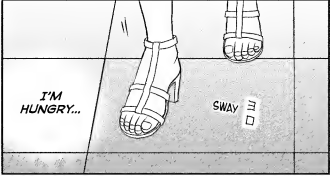
14

Which Came First, the
Chicken or the Egg?





IT'S THE
ROOSTER-HAIRED
HOT ONE!



I'M
HUNGRY...

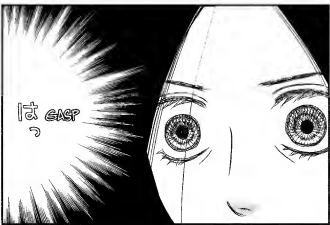
SWAY E
D



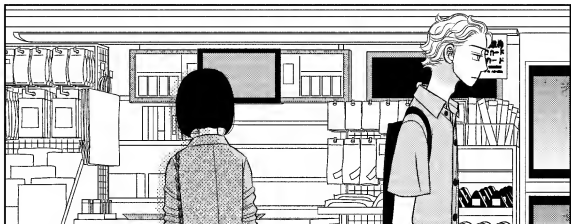
I'M PRETTY SURE
I STILL HAVE SOME
BREAD. WHEN I
WAKE UP, I'LL MAKE
MYSELF SOME TOAST
AND COFFEE WITH
HAM AND EGGS.



...BUT I CAN'T
EAT RIGHT
BEFORE I GO
TO BED.



はあ
？



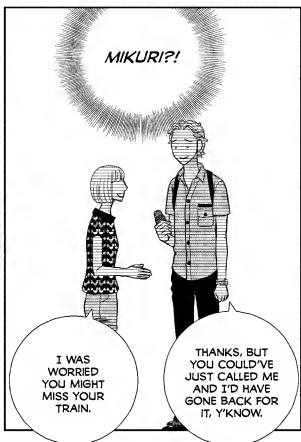
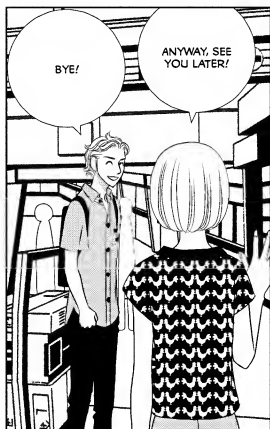
KAZAMI-SAN!

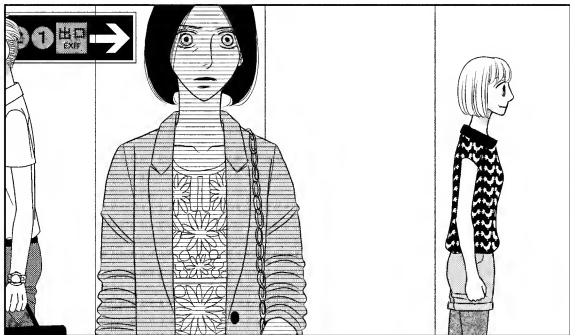
I GUESS THIS
KIND OF THING
HAPPENS WHEN
YOU LIVE IN THE
SAME NEIGH-
BORHOOD AS
SOMEONE.



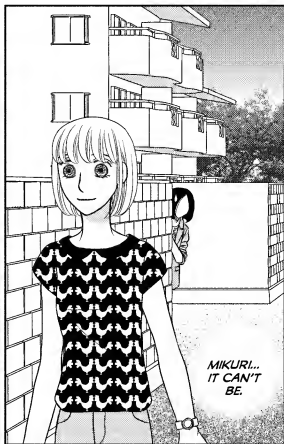
I DODGED A
BULLET THERE...
I CAN'T LET HIM
SEE ME WITH
MY MAKEUP ALL
MESSED UP
LIKE THIS.

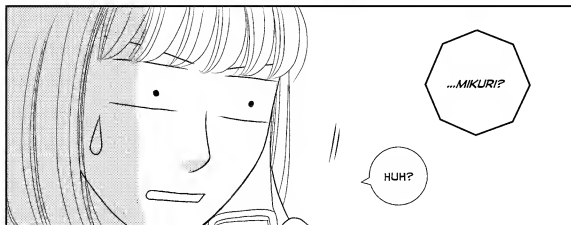
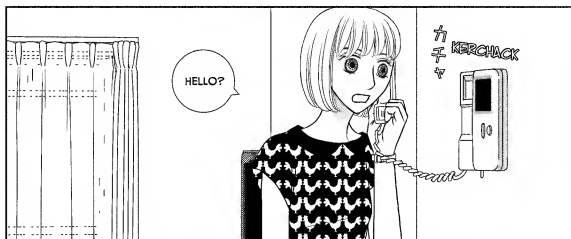
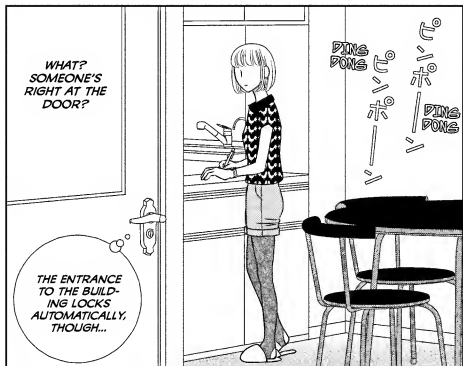


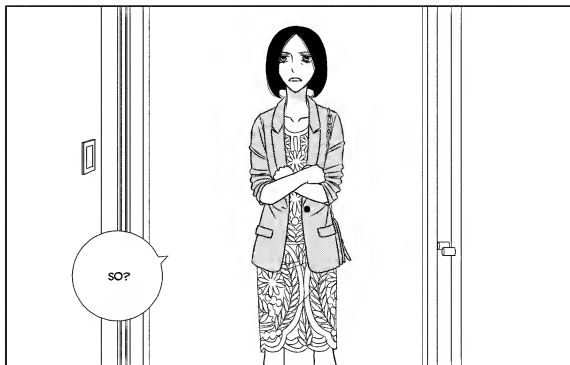
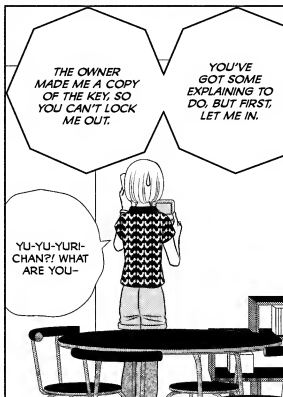
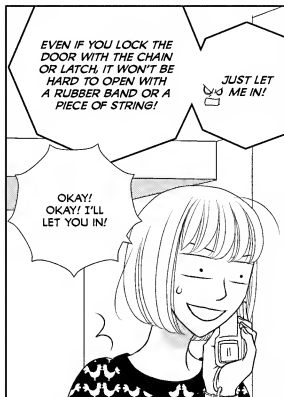


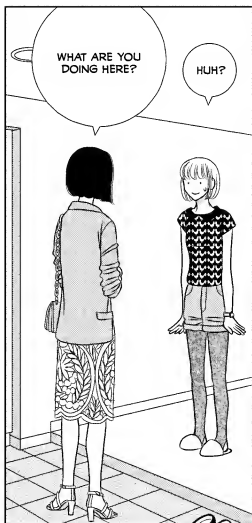
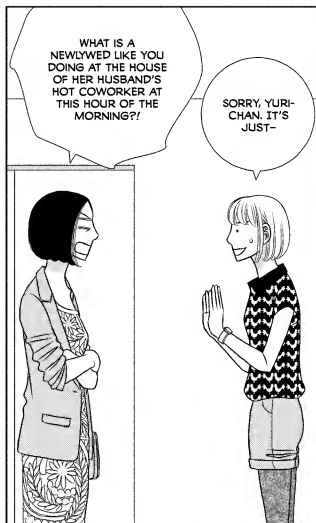


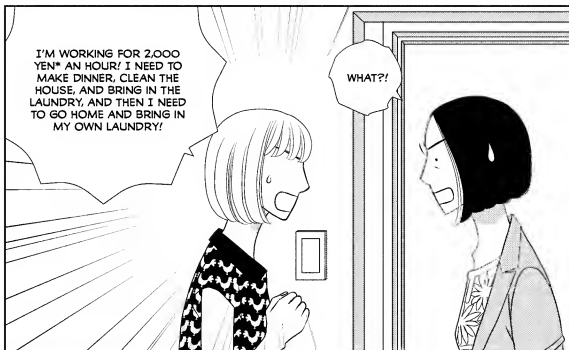
...WHAT WAS THAT ALL ABOUT?



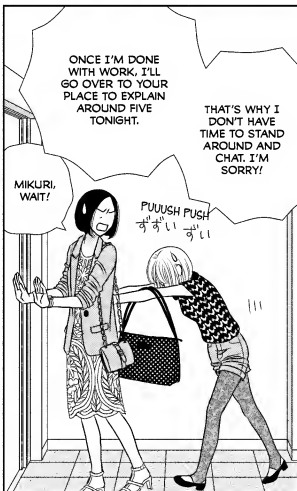


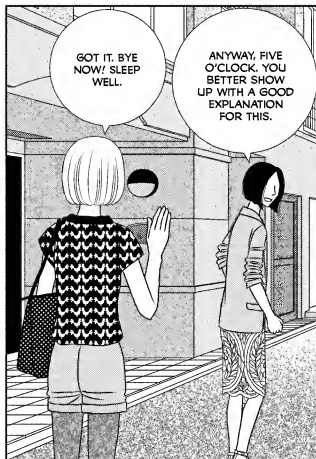


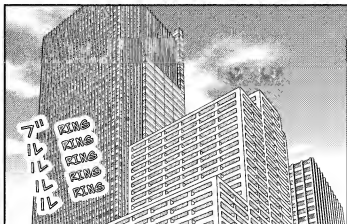
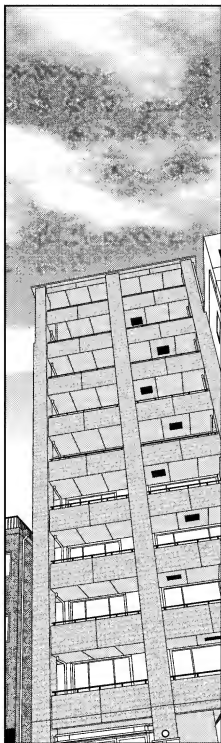


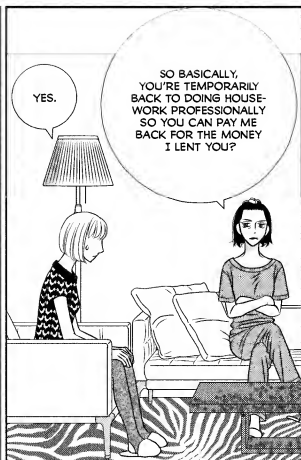
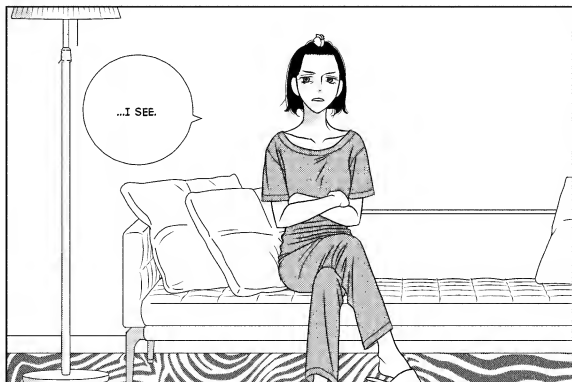


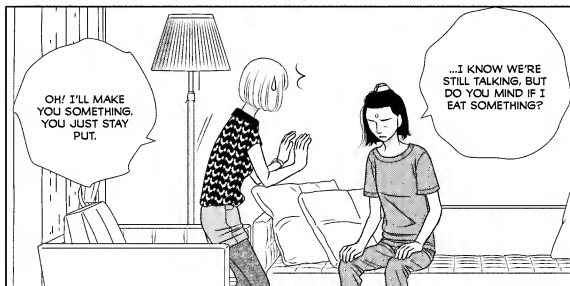
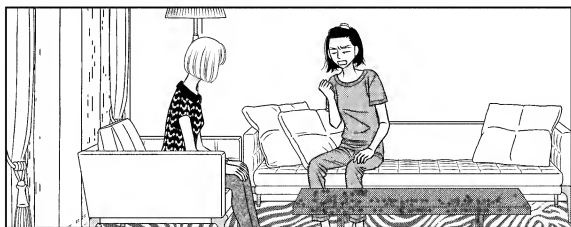
* ABOUT \$20.

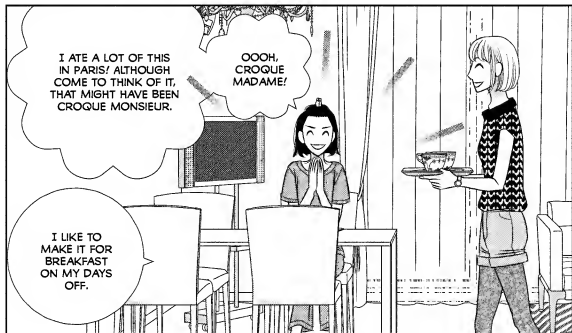
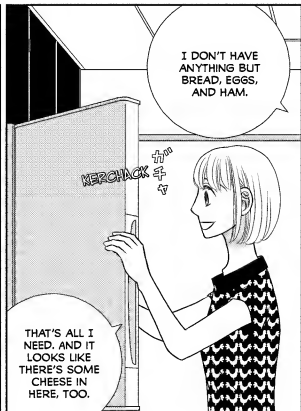
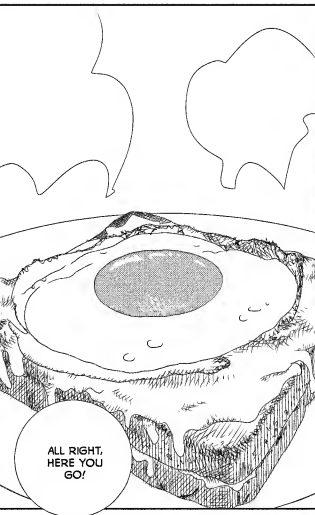


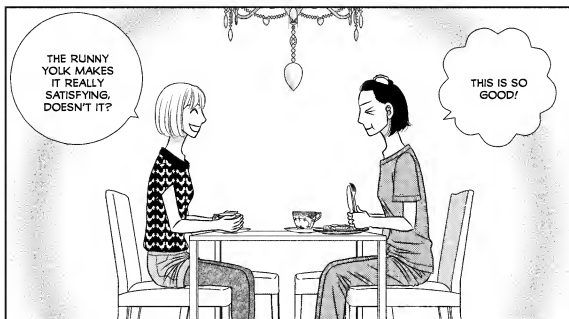
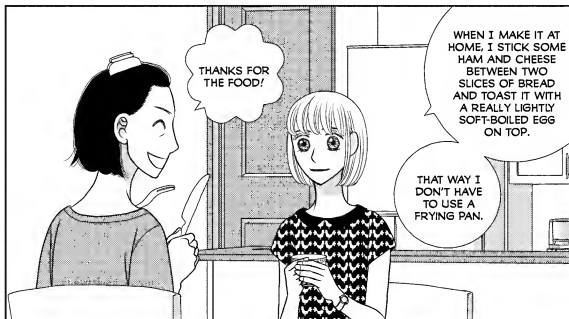


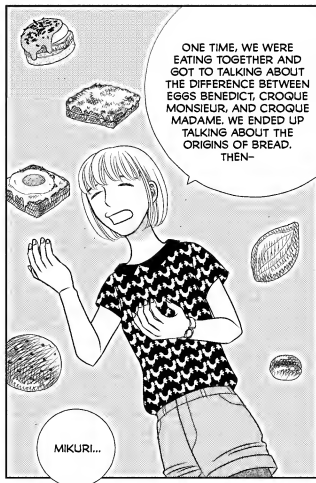


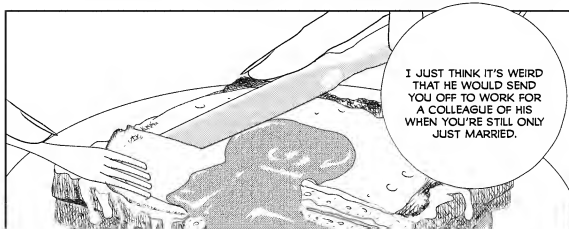
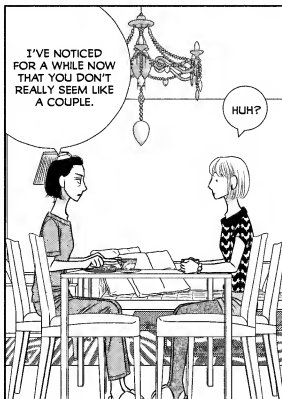
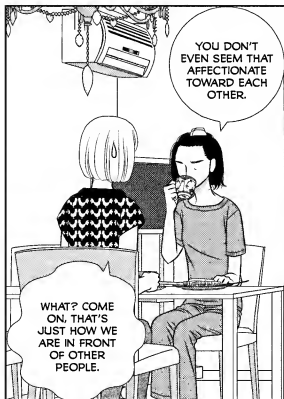




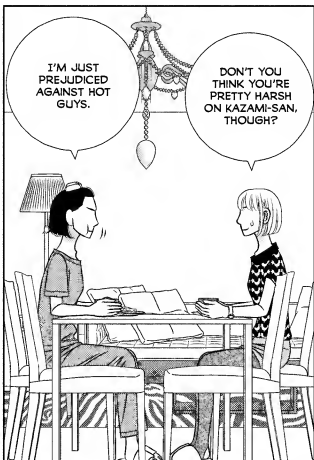


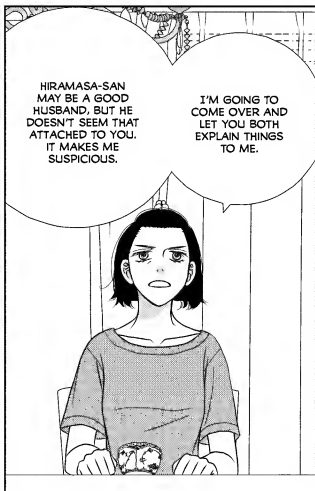
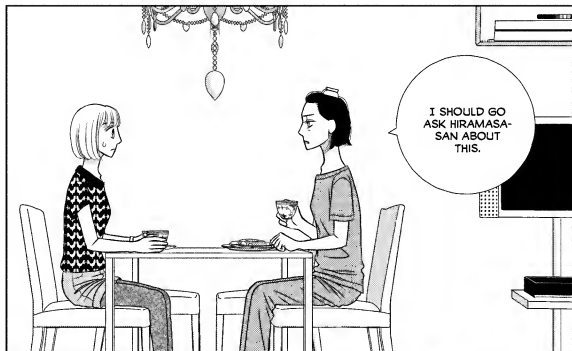


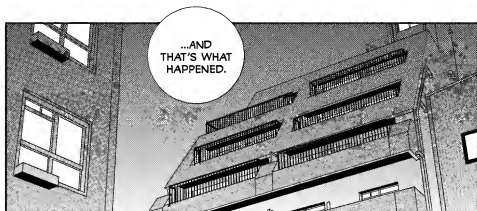


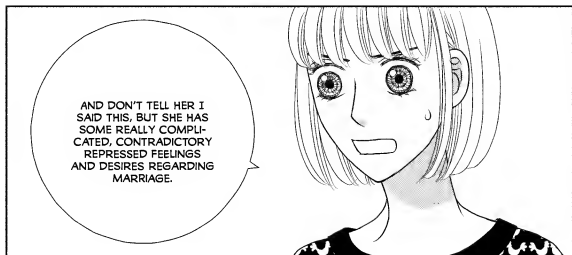
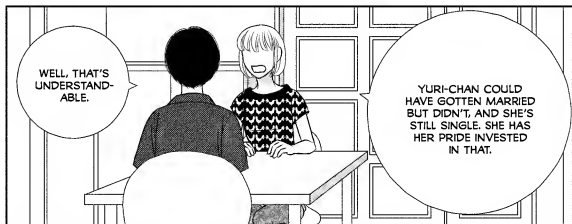






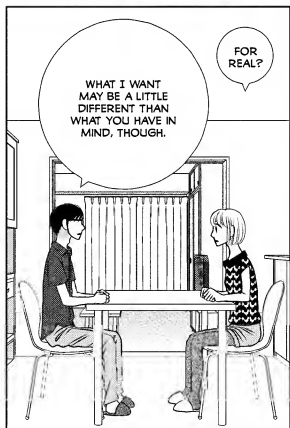


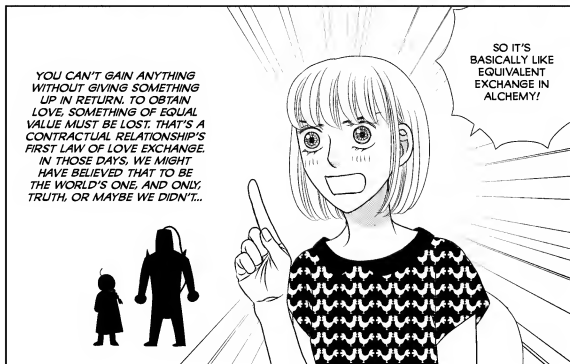
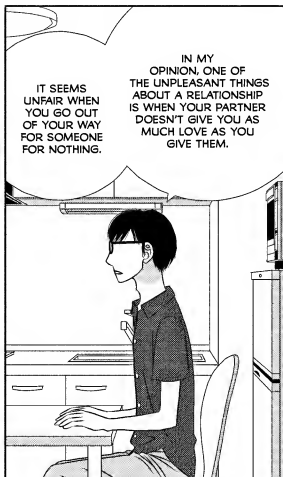




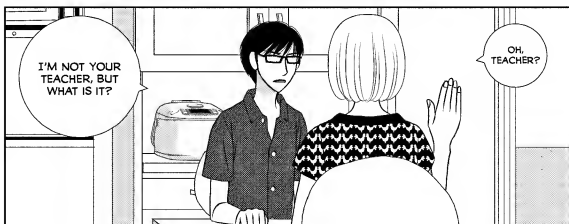
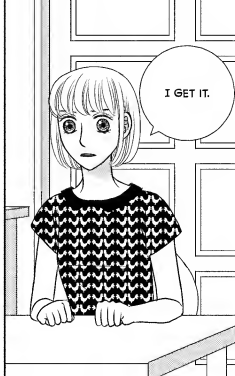


Y'KNOW, I'VE
GIVEN IT SOME
THOUGHT...

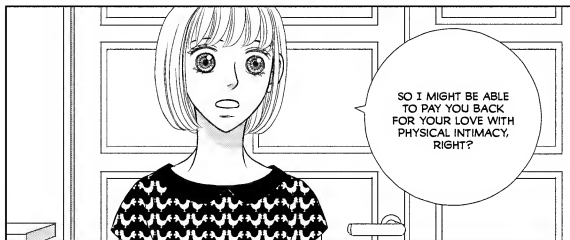
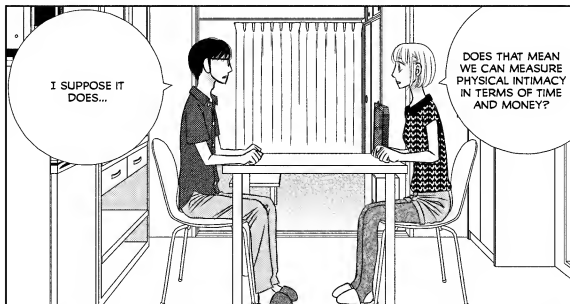


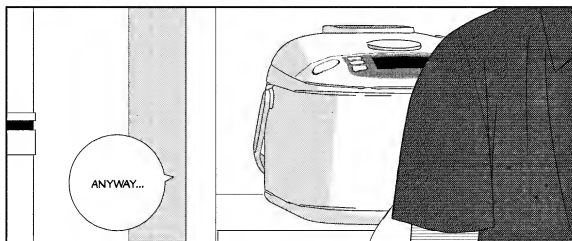
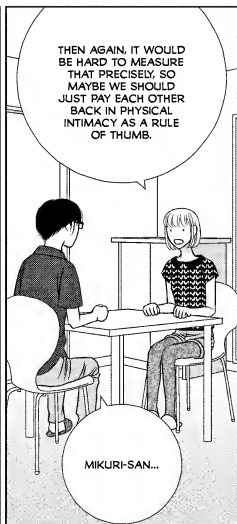














Special Thanks to

**Mio Hase,
my family and friends,
Kamakura-san,
Murakami-san,
Komuro-san,
everyone who cooperated with my interviews,

and YOU!**

Tsunami Umino, 2014

**You can follow my work at this blog!
<http://uminotsunami.seesaa.net/>**

Afterword

This is my thirty-ninth tankobon.

This year marks the twenty-fifth anniversary of my debut. It looks like I'll be able to make it to forty tankobon!

Near the end of last year, I was ranked eighth in the female edition of the publisher Takarajimasha's *This Manga's Awesome!* 2014. That resulted in several more printings of my work! (<-That's important.)

Normally, when an author has been in the business for twenty-five years, they've either experienced a sudden boom in sales at one point or they've just kept going at it with a core base of fans. I'm clearly the latter, but apparently, it's possible to get noticed even after over twenty years.

It really makes me feel in my bones how important it is to keep on keeping on.

This seems like the kind of time when I should be working harder than ever, but I saw a doctor recently, and it turns out I'm ill. I'm going to have to go on hiatus for a while.

By the time this volume goes on sale, I'll be in the hospital.

Fortunately, it doesn't appear to be anything life-threatening, so I plan on getting right back to work once I'm out.

I was shocked to find out about this, but everyone's been really kind and shown me a lot of concern. I've gotten to meet people I wouldn't have otherwise, too, so it's not all bad.

I felt a lot better after talking about it. As I explained things to people, even the parts that were scary at first started to seem more normal.

The scariest, hardest part was when I was trying to deal with it on my own.

I am a little anxious, but I'm determined to get through this.

I don't really think over the problems of modernity and write them into *The Full-Time Wife Escapist* intentionally. I started this comic just following my own random thoughts through to their conclusions.

I just want to raise as many possibilities as I can with this work.

I used to always be like, "Why can't I do this normal thing?" These days, I've gotten to thinking that "normal" doesn't offer you very many options.

They may not be normal, but I think there are a lot of possibilities out there.

Many people tell me that they're struck by my work. I really hope they get the message that there's a whole world of possibilities beyond the normal.

It's not that I want them to do anything in particular. I just want to give them the opportunity to explore various possibilities.

I work on this comic sort of like it were improv theater, so I don't necessarily know what's going to happen next.

Of course, *The Full-Time Wife Escapist* is, in a sense, about work, so I don't think the objective will be marriage (they're already married), but rather, success.

I hope you're looking forward to seeing where *Mikuri* ends up (even though I don't know, either).

I know I'm excited for it! It is a little scary, though...

Oh, I almost forgot. This year, I want to fulfill my longtime desire of growing a lotus plant in a pot with water. I'll put it on the veranda with a goldfish to ward off mosquito larvae.

By the way, I'm having a twenty-fifth anniversary tea party! Once I've figured out the details, I'll post them on my blog.

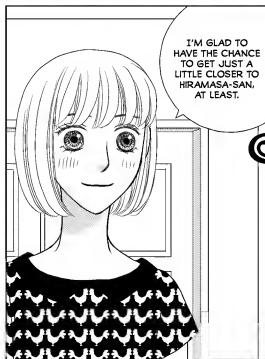
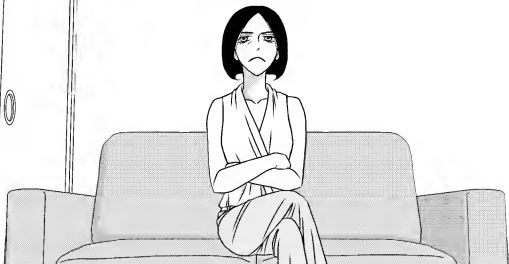
It looks like this will be another busy year, but I'm going to do my best.

I'll see you later.

Here's hoping I'll be able to continue this comic without any problems.

In the next volume...

と—————ん
SOOOOONG



I'M GLAD TO HAVE THE CHANCE TO GET JUST A LITTLE CLOSER TO HIRAMASA-SAN, AT LEAST.

TSUZAKI AND MIKURI DO SOMETHING FOR THE FIRST TIME TO MAKE THEMSELVES SEEM LIKE NEWLYWEDS, AND WITH YURI'S VISIT, THE PLOT SUDDENLY THICKENS!

THE FULL-TIME Wife ESCAPIST

Keep an eye out for it!

VOLUME 4
COMING
SOOOON!!



...LET'S SAY
TWICE A
MONTH.

Translation Notes

Nothing Ventured, Nothing Gained, page 3

[3.1]

The original title of this chapter was a Japanese proverb that, translated literally, would mean, "You can't steal the tiger's cub without entering its den." In other words, you can't obtain something of great value without taking a big risk.

Edo Period, page 16

[16.3]

The Edo period is typically considered to be the time between 1603 and 1868 C.E. This was the first time that all of Japan was unified under a centralized government, and the country practiced an isolationist foreign policy. This period ended with the Meiji restoration, which marks the beginning of Japan as we know it today.

Heian Period, page 24

[24.1]

The Heian period refers to the time between 794 and 1185 CE in Japanese history. The imperial court was at the height of its power, and many aspects of what is now considered traditional Japanese culture originated during this period. The end of this period marks the transition from classical to feudal Japan. Among aristocrats at the time, a man typically did not live with his wife or wives, but would visit them periodically.

If the Wind Blows, the Barrel Maker Profits, page 36

[36.1]

You might remember that Yuri made a joke based on this phrase and Kazamari's name in volume two. This saying is typically considered an example of an unlikely cause and effect, similar to the butterfly effect. The first record of this phrase is in the 1768 novel *Seken Gakusha Katagi* (*The Nature of Social Scholars*) by Sanjin Museki, and it is also known for appearing in the popular nineteenth-century comic travel novel *Tokaido Hizakurige* by Jippensha Ikku. There is a sort of logic to the saying. The idea is that if the wind blows, dirt will get in people's eyes. If that happens, some of them will go blind, and they'll have to busk for money. To do that, they'll need *shamisen* (an instrument similar to a lute). To meet the increase in demand, *shamisen* makers will need more cat skins, and with fewer cats around, there will be more mice. The mice will nibble at people's barrels, so they'll need new ones. If more people need barrels, the barrel maker profits.

Chapter 10

Nothing Ventured, Nothing Gained



Chapter 11

If the Wind Blows, the Barrel Maker Profits



Okonomiyaki, page 51

[51.2]

This food is something like a mix between a pancake and a pizza. It's made by frying a flour-based mixture, along with other ingredients such as vegetables, meat, and seafood, on a metal plate and topping it with various sauces, mayonnaise, or in this case curry. The precise recipe can vary from region to region.



Takikomi gohan, page 53

[53.2]

This is a dish that involves cooking rice in a mix of broth, vegetables, meat, and spices. It is similar to the jambalaya of Louisiana or the paella of Spain.



The Dog That Trots About Finds a Bone, page 67

[67.1]

The chapter title in Japanese was a proverb that literally means, "If the dog walks, it gets the stick." It has a sort of dual meaning, as the phrase is popularly used in a sense similar to that of the English chapter title, but it was originally a warning against doing something you shouldn't lest you be punished.

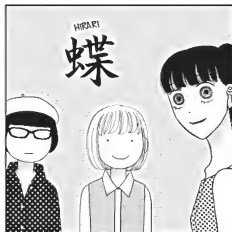
Chapter 12

The Dog That Trots About Finds a Bone

Hirari, page 71

[71.4]

Hirari could be considered a weird name because it is not a typical reading for this character. While there are laws in Japan about what Chinese characters one can use in a name, there are none about what readings are acceptable for those characters. The Chinese character for butterfly is normally pronounced *cho*. The word *hirari* means "flutter" and is suggestive of a butterfly's movement.



Translation Notes

He Who Chases Two Rabbits Doesn't Catch One, page 99 [99.1]

This chapter's title is another proverb, as are they all. This one is largely self-explanatory. You might think of it as similar to, "A bird in hand is worth two in the bush."

Hair like a rooster's, page 133 [133.4]

Literally, Yuri calls Kazami a weather vane here, as the word for this in Japanese is kazamidori, or "wind-seeing chicken."

Alchemy, page 156 [156.3]

This is a reference to *Fullmetal Alchemist*, a manga about two brothers who lose parts of their bodies by using alchemy in an attempt to resurrect their dead mother. In this manga, all alchemical transformations are ruled by a law of equivalent exchange. Mikuri's use of the word "rewrite" on the next page is probably a reference to one of the opening themes of the anime version, "Rewrite" by Asian Kung-Fu Generation.

Tankobon, page 164 [164.1]

Most manga start out by being serialized in a magazine. When the chapters are collected into a book, that book is called a *tankobon*.

Chapter 13

He Who Chases Two Rabbits Catches Neither One



Afterword

This is my thirty-ninth *tankobon*.

This year marks the twenty-fifth anniversary of my debut. It looks like I'll be able to make it to forty *tankobon*!

The Full-Time Wife Escapist 3

KODANSHA COMICS Digital Edition

The Full-Time Wife Escapist volume 3 copyright © 2014 Tsunami Umino
English translation copyright © 2017 Tsunami Umino

All rights reserved.

First published in Japan in 2014 by Kodansha Ltd., Tokyo.
Electronic Publishing rights for this English edition arranged through
Kodansha Ltd., Tokyo.

No portion of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or
by any means without written permission from the copyright holders.

English digital edition published by Kodansha Advanced Media, LLC,
San Francisco.

www.kodanshacomics.com

ISBN: 9781682335901

Digital Edition: 1.0.0

Translation by Rose Padgett
Lettering by Andrew Copeland
Editing by Adam Hirsch
YKS Services LLC/SKY Japan, INC.